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The USS Indianapolis is seen at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, in 1937.

Courtesy of the Naval History and Heritage Command



LOST TO HISTORY?



USS Indianapolis tragedy survivor tells his tale so sinking isn't forgotten

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CRISIS IN IRAQ

A nation in the making?

If Iraq is going to fall apart, Kurds may lead the way

By SLOBODAN LEXIK
Stars and Stripes

Ever since Sunni Islamic militants occupied much of northern and western Iraq, threatened Baghdad and proclaimed a new caliphate, the world has been grappling with the possibility that the Iraqi state might disintegrate along sectarian and ethnic lines — with Iraq's Kurdish minority leading the way.

Such a breakup would fundamentally redraw the map of the Middle East imposed by French and British imperialists after World War I. It would almost certainly result in a new nation ignored in the colonial carve-up: Kurdistan.

Despite strong support for independence among most Kurds, significant obstacles remain to a final break with Iraq. For that reason, many analysts argue the most realistic scenario would be greater autonomy for the Kurds, who already enjoy significant self-rule. That would mean transforming Iraq into a confederation with three constituent regions — a Kurdish state in the north, a Sunni entity in the west and center, and a Shiite region in the center and oil-rich south of the country.

"It's one thing for the Kurds to dream of (independence), another to face the cold hard realities of it," said a senior Western diplomat in Baghdad. "It is costly being independent, your neighbors have to accept it and there has to be cohesion with the community."

SEE NATION ON PAGE 3

SIGAR: Thousands of Afghan weapons unaccounted for

By JOSH SMITH
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Neither the American military nor the Afghan government can keep track of hundreds of thousands of weapons provided to Afghan security forces, sparking fears that some could land in the hands of insurgents or terrorist groups, according to a U.S. watchdog.

Of the nearly half a million weapons registered in a U.S. Department of Defense database

called OVERLORD, more than 40 percent of the entries had missing or duplicated information, investigators with the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction said in a report to be released on Monday.

Another government inventory database had similarly incomplete information, the

report found.

Since 2004, the United States has provided Afghan security forces with more than 700,000 weapons and auxiliary equipment worth about \$626 million, SIGAR said.



Now, however, inconsistencies in the methods used by both the U.S. and Afghanistan to track those

weapons have left potentially tens of thousands of weapons unaccounted for.

"Accountability over these weapons within DOD prior to their transfer to Afghan ownership is affected by incompatible inventory systems that have missing serial numbers, inaccurate shipping and receiving dates, and duplicate records, that may result in missing weapons prior to transfer to the ANSF," investigators concluded.

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UKRAINE UNREST

Violence delays police visit to the MH17 crash site

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Dependent benefits extended to gay and lesbian spouses in Italy

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NFL

This season, Rams' DE Quinn plans on doing even better

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If we as a society cannot stomach the splatter from an execution carried out by a firing squad, then we shouldn't be carrying out executions at all."

— Chief Judge Alex Kozinski, of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals

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COMING SOON



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Tom Petty releases 13th album

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MIDEAST

Taliban raiding home of police chief shot dead

By RAHIM FAIEZ
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Taliban insurgents attacked the home of a well-known provincial police chief in restive southern Afghanistan on Sunday, killing a civilian and a border policeman before being shot dead by police, officials said.

The six gunmen, all of whom were wearing suicide vests, launched the attack from a school building near Gen. Abdul Razeq's house in the Spin Boldak district of Kandahar province, but were shot dead before they could enter the residence, provincial police spokesman Zia Durani said.

"Gen. Abdul Razeq was in his house at the time of the attack," but was unharmed, Durani added.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yusuf Ahmadi claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement sent to the media. Abdul Razeq is a well-

known police chief and prominent anti-Taliban figure in Kandahar province, and has survived several attacks.

In the capital, Kabul, meanwhile, hundreds of protesters took to the streets in an anti-Taliban demonstration organized by activists and civil society groups, with similar protests held in the northern Balkh and western Herat provinces.

The protesters chanted against the recent killing of civilians in Taliban attacks.

On Friday, Taliban gunmen halted three minibuses in the western Ghor province and shot dead 14 passengers on the side of the road, including three women, after identifying them as Hazara Shiites.

The Taliban, like other Sunni extremist groups, view the country's minority Shiite community as apostates and have targeted Hazaras in the past with suicide



MASSOUD HOSSAINI/AP

Members of civil society organizations hold anti-Taliban signs Sunday at a demonstration in Kabul, Afghanistan, to protest the killing of civilians by Taliban insurgents.

bombings and other attacks.

Ousted from power by the 2001 U.S.-led invasion, the Taliban soon regrouped as an insurgency battling NATO troops and Afghan security forces.

The United States has pressed Afghanistan to agree to a bilateral security pact that would allow thousands of American troops to remain past the end of the year to train Afghan security forces and assist with counterterrorism operations.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai has refused to sign the agreement.

The two candidates in last month's disputed presidential runoff have said they will sign the

pact, but the final results in the election have been delayed amid allegations of fraud.

The Taliban's reclusive leader, Mullah Mohammad Omar, on Friday warned against signing the agreement in a message released in honor of the Eid al-Fitr holiday marking the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

"We believe the war in Afghanistan will come to an end when all foreign invaders pull out of Afghanistan and a holy Islamic and independent regime prevails here," he said, adding that the presence of even a limited number of foreign troops would mean a "continuation of occupation and the war."

SIGAR: Pentagon says it has no authority over excess guns

FROM FRONT PAGE

"However, the problems are far more severe after the weapons are transferred to the ANSF," the report said. "ANSF record-keeping and inventory processes are poor and, in many cases, were unable to conduct even basic inventory testing at the ANSF facilities we visited."

As an example, SIGAR noted that the Afghan National Army has 83,184 more AK-47 assault rifles than it needs. The Russian-designed rifles were favored over NATO weapons to ensure compatibility, but the excess guns were never disposed of and the Defense Department told SIGAR investigators it doesn't have the authority to do anything about it.

'It is the Afghan government's responsibility, not DOD's, to determine if they have weapons in excess of their needs.'

Defense Department officials

That issue of excess weapons will only be exacerbated by the planned reduction in the number of Afghan forces, SIGAR argued.

Without confidence in the Afghan government's ability to account for or properly dispose of these weapons, SIGAR is concerned that they could be obtained by insurgents and pose additional risks to Afghan civilians and the ANSF," the report concluded.

SIGAR recommended that the Defense Department patch the holes in its databases and work with the Afghan government to try to recover the extra weapons, including by requiring the Afghans to conduct a comprehensive inventory check.

In written responses to the SIGAR report, Defense officials said they are already in the process of combining their two data-

bases into one. They said they are working to make future delivery of weapons contingent on regular inventory checks, but that it's up to the Afghan government to determine how many weapons it needs and what to do with them.

"It is the Afghan government's responsibility, not DOD's, to determine if they have weapons in excess of their needs," Defense officials wrote. "It is premature to speculate on potential ANSF force strength reductions. Weapons that are transferred to the ANSF become property of the Afghan government and under its control."

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MIDEAST

House to Obama: No GIs to Iraq without our OK

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The House overwhelmingly passed a resolution Friday that would bar President Barack Obama from sending forces to Iraq in a "sustained combat role" without congressional approval, a bill with greater symbolic than legal effect.

The non-binding measure hasn't been debated in the Senate. Its language opens up several questions related to the Constitution's separation of powers between executive and legislative branches, even if Obama and his top military advisers already have ruled out sending combat troops to help

Iraq fight extremist insurgents.

Friday's legislation was approved by a 370-40 vote after Republican and Democratic lawmakers emphasized the need to reassert what they argued is their constitutional control over authorizing military force.

"This resolution makes one clear statement," said its sponsor, Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass. "If the president decides we should further involve our military in Iraq, he needs to work with Congress to authorize it."

"The time to debate our re-engagement in Iraq, should it come to that, is before we are caught in the heat of the moment," he said.

"Not when the first body bags come home. Not when the first bombs start to fall. Not when the worst-case scenario is playing out on our TV screens."

More than 800 U.S. forces are in Iraq. More than half are providing security for the embassy and U.S. personnel. American servicemembers also are involved in improving U.S. intelligence, providing security cooperation and conducting assessments of Iraqi capabilities.

U.S. officials say the Sunni extremists who call themselves the Islamic State pose a significant threat to the American homeland.

Russia delivers combat aircraft to Iraq military

By MITCHELL PROTHERO
McClatchy Tribune

IRBIL, Iraq — The Iraqi government Friday confirmed that Russia has begun delivery of attack helicopters and warplanes as part of an arms deal intended to bolster the foundering military effort to retake the nearly half of Iraq lost this year to Islamist militants.

Mi-35 helicopter gunships and Su-25 fighter-bombers were hastily added in June to a multibillion-dollar arms deal that had been signed before militants from the Islamic State stormed through northern and central Iraq, eventually driving the crumbling Iraqi army to the gates of Baghdad.

Despite reports last month that six Russian Su-25s had been rushed to Iraq and that Iran had returned a similar number of the

same aircraft that it had seized at the outset of the Persian Gulf War in 1991, there's been little sign of their use on the battlefield — likely because, analysts say, there are few trained ground crews, pilots and infrastructure to support the 3-decade-old aircraft.

Matthew Herman, a military analyst for IHS Janes, the British military consultancy, said that the lack of maintenance on the Iranian and Russian jets, along with a lack of experienced pilots and ground crews, make it unlikely they "would get any kind of operational use out of those aircraft, if they got them off the ground."

The additional Russian deliveries announced Friday should change that. The refurbished Su-25s as well as advanced Mi-35 attack helicopters presumably will be flyable.

Nation: Analysts see Iraq partition as likely, giving Kurds more autonomy

FROM FRONT PAGE

"None of these are given here," said the diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the issue is so sensitive.

And in an indication that Iraq's political system remains alive despite the chaos unleashed by the fundamentalist Islamic State offensive, the country's feuding political parties came together in parliament last week to elect a Kurdish politician as the country's new president.

The ability of Iraq's various ethnic and sectarian political actors to elect a president ... despite the ongoing [Sunni militant] offensive, belies claims of the demise of the Iraqi nation," the geopolitical intelligence firm Stratfor said in a report Thursday.

"The Kurds are seeking as much autonomy as they can get and the Sunnis are in rebellion, meaning that Iraq — a federal entity on paper — will largely behave as a confederation over time," Stratfor predicted.

Since the withdrawal of the last U.S. troops from Iraq at the end of 2011, tensions between the central government headed by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and the Sunni and Kurdish regions have been to seize oil fields around the disputed city of Kirkuk following the collapse of the Shiite-dominated Iraqi army show that Baghdad no longer controls those regions.

The revolt by Islamic State militants from the Sunni community and Kurdish forces to seize oil fields around the disputed city of Kirkuk following the collapse of the Shiite-dominated Iraqi army show that Baghdad no longer controls those regions.

Since then, Kurdish leaders and analysts have argued that full independence for Iraqi Kurdistan is inevitable and that what they consider righting a historical wrong would have a stabilizing effect on the region.

"It's not that the Kurds are leaving Iraq. It's that they left the Kurds," said Peter Galbraith,



KARIM KADIM/AP

Lawmakers from the Iraqi city of Mosul, one of the areas captured by the Islamic State group and other Sunni militants last month, speak to the media in Baghdad on Wednesday.

a former U.S. diplomat and one-time adviser to the Kurdish Regional Government.

The Kurdish region of northern Iraq, which borders Iran, Syria and Turkey, already has its own government, parliament and security force — the peshmarga. The region has about eight million inhabitants, approximately a quarter of Iraq's population. It has enjoyed near total independence since Saddam Hussein withdrew his forces from the area after his defeat in the 1991 Persian Gulf War and the U.S. and its allies set up a no-fly zone over Kurdish territory.

Unlike the demoralized, U.S.-trained Iraqi army that crumbled under the Islamic State onslaught, the peshmarga remained firm and quickly took up positions abandoned by the fleeing troops, including suburbs of Iraq's second-largest city, Mosul, most of which is in extremist hands.

"The real point is that Iraq has already collapsed as a state," Galbraith told Stars and Stripes. "Iraq's army used to have 17 divisions, but only two are left now." Galbraith said partitioning the country — into a Kurdish state

in the north, a Sunni one in the west and middle and a Shiite one in the south — is the only solution that makes sense. "There are now Shiite religious parties, Sunni religious parties and Kurdish parties, and none see Iraq as their country anymore," he said.

Iraqi Kurdish leaders also have taken up the message that after the dramatic defeats of the past several weeks, the Iraqi state cannot be glued back together.

"I don't think Iraq can stay together again after [the fall of] Mosul," Nechirvan Barzani, prime minister of the autonomous Kurdish region, said in a BBC interview. "It's just most impossible." Earlier this month, top Kurdish leader Massoud Barzani proposed a referendum on Kurdish independence. He also visited Ankara and held talks with Turkish leaders to discuss plans for the ballot, which most observers believe would result in an overwhelming vote for independence.

Ever since the U.S. and its allies toppled Saddam in the 2003 invasion, Kurdish politicians have threatened to declare full independence. That strategy has won significant concessions from

Washington and Baghdad — even though the Kurds never played the full independence card.

Even Turkey, which had vehemently opposed Iraqi Kurdish independence for fear it would encourage Turkey's own Kurdish minority, has warned to the notion of a Kurdistan with significant autonomy if not full independence. Turkey has already forged extensive commercial ties to Iraqi Kurdistan to the irritation of the central government in Baghdad.

Ankara is ignoring warnings from Iraq's government that all contracts governing oil and natural gas revenue must be approved by Baghdad and is considering an energy deal with Iraqi Kurdistan.

"Turkey appears to have now fully thrown its lot with Iraqi Kurds in their struggle with the Baghdad government," said Tulin Daloglu, a columnist for Al-Monitor, a major Middle Eastern news website.

Despite some support for Kurdish independence in the U.S. Congress, the possibility that Iraq may disintegrate has raised alarm in Washington and other world capitals for fear this could lead to a wholesale unraveling of the Middle East.

Instead, the Obama administration supports a united Iraq with a federal system that devolves more power to regional authorities and their own security forces, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Brad McGurt said. "This model of functional federalism is feasible and necessary," he told the House Foreign Affairs Committee on Wednesday.

Zalmay Khalilzad, a former U.S. ambassador to Iraq, and Kenneth Pollack, a Middle East expert at the Brookings Institution, also maintain that a united Iraq with significant power transferred to the regions remains the best option for the country.

"Partition is still likely to be difficult, bloody and a long time in coming," they wrote in a joint

op-ed piece in the New Republic. "There is a dangerous mythology taking hold in Washington that partition might be easy because Iraq has since been sorted out into neat, easily divided cantonments. That is false."

Iraq's neighbors also have reacted negatively to the prospect of Kurdish independence. Syria and Iran fear that their own Kurdish minorities will try to follow suit. Others, including Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Israel, fear the breakup of Iraq would leave an impoverished, Sunni mini-state affiliated with terrorist groups close to their borders. At the same time, they worry that any Iraqi Shiite state controlling the oil-rich south would be dominated by their archrival, Iran.

And al-Maliki and other Shiite politicians emphatically oppose full Kurdish independence. Baghdad continues to block Kurdish attempts to attain energy independence by threatening to sue any foreign company that bypasses Iraq's central government in signing oil deals with the Kurds.

"I think a declaration of independence is a less likely scenario at this time," said Jacqueline Hazelton, a professor at the U.S. Naval War College. "The potential costs are higher than not doing so and there is no great reward in sight."

Hazelton, who stressed she was not speaking for the college, said she doesn't see an independence would do nothing to facilitate oil sales, and would alienate the Kurds' allies, Turkey and the United States.

"As things stand now, the Kurds have increased leverage within Iraqi politics because of their link in pushing back against [the Islamic militant]," she said. "I'd expect the Iraqi Kurds to use that leverage to try to finally get a deal more to their liking on oil exports and revenue sharing."

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MILITARY



PHOTOS BY CHRIS ADAMS/MCT

Cila, right, a retired military working dog, yawns as officials from the American Humane Association and members of Congress talk about transferring military dogs to civilian life during a hearing in Washington on Wednesday.

In Congress, a turn to dog daze

By CHRIS ADAMS

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — You want to get something done in Congress, bring a dog. At least it couldn't hurt.

As she looked into a hearing room packed with reporters, supporters and four canines on Wednesday, Rep. Dina Titus, D-Nev., was reminded of a similar lesson she learned in her statehouse days. Basically, if you want to have your bill passed, just show up with a dog, she remembered.) Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla., saw dog power in even more profound ways.

"Dogs are magical creatures, because they can make a rusty, cranky old curmudgeon like Don Young seem almost lovable," she said. "So, hats off to the dogs."

Young, the Alaska Republican who pointed out he was "the only dog musher in the whole Congress," and others were on hand to help efforts by the American Humane

Association to change rules under which military dogs move to civilian life.

Robin Ganzert, president and chief executive of the American Humane Association, said that former military dogs are not guaranteed to be retired in America and might not be reunited with their former handlers.

Her group wants the Department of Defense to mandate that all military working dogs be retired on U.S. soil so that they are given military transport back from their war zones. And it wants to ensure that the dogs' former handlers are provided first opportunity to adopt them.

The group also wants dogs that are working for contractors to be given the same benefits as those that are formally part of the military.

Three former handlers of military dogs Ryky, Cila and Thor spoke in halting, emotional ways about the bonds they had with their animals — and how they jumped

through major hoops to be reunited with them after their service ended.

The dogs that took over a hearing room of the House Budget Committee had served in Iraq and Afghanistan, sniffing for explosives, helping rescue fallen soldiers, enduring multiple tours. They carry some of the same post-traumatic issues as returning soldiers.

"We had some challenging times in Iraq, but we both made it out safely," Army veteran Jason Bos said of his companion, Cila, who served with him on nearly 100 missions.

"Now Cila is a couch potato. She's retired. She can eat what she wants. She can get fat — just be like a regular retired person."

While the American Humane Association is rounding up support in Congress, Ganzert said the Department of Defense could handle the changes administratively, without the need for legislation.



Carlos, the American Humane Association's "military hero dog of the year," stands in front of the group's president and chief executive, Robin Ganzert, at the hearing Wednesday.

Female pilot follows a family tradition to ranks of Angels

By JOE BURRIS
AND COLIN CAMPBELL
The Baltimore Sun

When your father, two uncles and both grandfathers served as pilots, your career seems destined to take flight.

Marine Capt. Katie Higgins not only followed in the footsteps of her family members, but last week she was named to the U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, also known as the Blue Angels.

With her first show flight sometime next spring, the 2008 Naval Academy graduate said she could become the first woman to perform in Blue Angels history.

The Blue Angels are considered one of the most elite outfits in U.S. military aviation, and the addition of a female pilot to its ranks is both historically significant and no small feat, said Robert Thomas, the cu-

rator of the National Military History Center in Indiana. "To get added to that group is extraordinary, seeing how far the military has come," he said.

While women flew aid missions in World War II, no women flew in combat until Operation Desert Storm in 1991, Thomas said.

Blue Angels public affairs officer Lt. j.g. Amber Lynn Daniel said that Higgins' addition to the team, along with Marine Capt. Corrie Mays, 34, of Marston Mills, Mass., marks the first time in Blue Angels history that two female Marine Corps officers have been selected to serve on the team at the same time.



Higgins

Whoever takes to the air first will break through a gender barrier, though neither is the first female member of the Blue Angels. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Amy Redditt Tomlinson became the first woman to wear a Blue Angels number when she became Blue Angel No. 8 in 2010. Tomlinson never performed, serving as an events coordinator and navigator.

Both Higgins and Mays will pilot the Blue Angels' C-130 Hercules cargo plane known as "Fat Albert," which rumbles low and slow over the crowds at air shows and can take off at a 45-degree angle using rocket boosters, a maneuver used in combat zones.

Marta Martin, a Navy counselor who runs a history blog on women in the service, said Higgins flying with the Blue Angels is "a huge deal."

Higgins joins a growing list of high-

achieving women, such as the Navy's first female full admiral, Michelle J. Howard, who serve as an inspiration to others in the service, Martin said.

"It allows people to see there are so many different options for them," Martin said. "With the Blue Angels, it is very difficult to even work for their team, to be appointed to assist them. Just the fact that there's a female, that's great."

Higgins said she dreamed of becoming a pilot when she was growing up, but her ambition wasn't truly formed until her second-class midshipman year at the Naval Academy, when she boarded her first non-commercial aircraft and took the controls.

"It was really intimidating but one of the best experiences I've ever had," said Higgins, 27. "I could say I had a goal to do it because of my dad, but until I did it I didn't know. It was a really cool experience."

MILITARY



MATTHEW M. BURKE/Stars and Stripes

Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force explosive ordnance disposal technicians observe the detonation of two dozen U.S. munitions from World War II at sea near Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, on Wednesday.

More ordnance from Battle of Okinawa safely detonated

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND CHIYOMI SUMIDA
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — World War II ended 69 years ago, but shells are still exploding off the coast of Okinawa.

Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force explosive ordnance disposal technicians detonated two dozen U.S.-made munitions Wednesday morning about 800 yards from shore in Kadena Town's Mizugama district, an area known as the "sea wall," close to Kadena Air Base.

Nineteen of the 24 rounds were 5-inch shells found near the mouth of the Hija River in Kadena Town along with an 81 mm mortar shell, according to Kadena Town official Nobukazu Kobashigawa. They were accompanied by four 5-inch shells found on the Yomitani Village side.

"It is not surprising to find those shells because the beach is where the allied forces first landed during the Battle of Okinawa," Kobashigawa said. "I am sure there are lots more."

As the detonation time neared, a countdown was pronounced in Japanese for a group of town officials, joined by members of the Maritime Self-Defense Force, Japanese Coast Guard and local police.

The explosion was barely heard over the whipping ocean wind but it sent a plume of gray-and-white smoke along with sea spray toward the overcast sky. A team of Maritime Self-Defense Force explosives experts then inspected the site to ensure the detonation was a success.

"Since the local area and base areas were once battlefields, it's not uncommon to unearth or randomly find UXOs (unexploded ordnance)," 18th Wing public affairs spokeswoman Staff Sgt. Amber Jacobs wrote to Stars and Stripes.

"Typically when UXOs are found off base, the Japanese government will dispose of the UXOs, and when it is on base [U.S. military explosive ordnance disposal technicians] would dispose of the UXOs."

"You tend to hear a lot about

UXOs when new construction projects kick off or when someone needs to disturb the ground."

Japanese officials said a diver discovered the rounds last Dec. 24. The fuses were confirmed to still be operational, then the munitions were moved to the off-shore detonation area Tuesday and marked with a red flag and buoy.

It is unknown how many unexploded munitions remain buried on Okinawa in coastal waters, according to the 15th Brigade Okinawa of the Ground Self-Defense Force. As of July 12, some 1,708 tons had been recovered and detonated by the Self-Defense Force since the island prefecture was returned to Japan in 1972.

The Battle of Okinawa landing is known as the "Typhoon of Steel" in Japan for the sheer ferocity of the fighting and the amount of munitions that were expended. It is unknown how many tons of UXOs were removed by the U.S. military between the end of World War II and the island's reversion to Japanese control.

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Gay DOD spouses given dependent benefits in Italy

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Same-sex spouses of U.S. servicemembers and Defense Department civilians assigned to Italy have been granted command sponsorship, allowing them access to base facilities and other benefits available to heterosexual families.

"This will allow same-sex spouses of servicemembers and civilians to be assigned as 'dependent' immediately," Pentagon spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Nathan J. Chetani wrote Thursday in an email to Stars and Stripes.

The American Military Partner Association, the nation's largest organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender military spouses and their families, issued a statement Tuesday commending the decision to add Italy to the list of available assignments outside the United States for same-sex couples.

"The long awaited addition of Italy to the available locations for same-sex spouses to be sponsored is certainly welcome news for many of our servicemembers who have already received orders there and had to leave their families behind or are soon to receive orders there," Stephen Peters, the organization's president, said in the statement.

Prior to the change, Italy was among a number of foreign countries hosting U.S. military personnel in which the DOD did not extend full benefits to gay and lesbian families. Same-sex spouses were denied command sponsorship to duty stations in Italy due to concerns that same-sex spouses were not covered under the status of forces agreement, the AMPA statement says.

One of the most important benefits of command sponsorship is that it provides military dependent exemptions from passport and visa regulations, allowing them to remain continuously in country. Italy's Foreign Ministry confirmed that while Italian law does not recognize same-sex marriages, same-sex spouses will be considered as dependents under SOFA, according to the DOD.



LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

Army Sgt. Michael Potoczniak and his partner, Todd Saunders, get married at City Hall in San Francisco in June 2013.

"Hopefully, now families who had to remain behind will be quickly reunited with their servicemember," Peters wrote in an email to Stars and Stripes. He said the change would also help spouses currently on tourist visas looking for employers to sponsor them.

It's unknown how many people in Italy will be affected by the change. Christensen said combat commands are working with the State Department to help clarify how host nations in the SOFA interpret the definition of "dependent" as it pertains to U.S. command-sponsored, same-sex spouses.

In addition to Italy, command sponsorship has been added for same-sex military and DOD civilian dependents in Norway, Finland and Cyprus, meaning 20 countries now allow command-sponsored gay and lesbian families, according to the DOD.

Command sponsorship is still elusive for same-sex military and civilian spouses in Germany, where about 43,000 U.S. military personnel are assigned. Germany recognizes same-sex civil unions but not marriages.

In Asia, same-sex military spouses have command sponsorship in Japan. Command sponsorship is not offered to same-sex DOD couples in South Korea, although they have been granted some marriage benefits.

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Europe's Army reservists welcome new commander

Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — A former Marine is the new leader of Army reservists in Europe.

Brig. Gen. Arlan M. DeBlick assumed command of the 7th Civil Support Command at a ceremony Saturday on the parade field at Daenner Kaserne.

DeBlick replaces Brig. Gen. Paul M. Benenati, who was in charge of Europe's nearly 1,000 Army reservists for the past 20 months.

DeBlick began his military career in 1979, when he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. Six

years later, he was commissioned a second lieutenant, serving overseas on Okinawa, according to his online Army Reserve biography.

In 1993, he transferred to the Marine Corps Reserve, and in 2000, he switched to the Army Reserve, according to his biography. DeBlick has multiple downrange deployments under his belt, having served in Iraq in 2003 and again from 2009 to 2010 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He also deployed to Afghanistan from 2006 to 2008.

The 7th CSC is the only Army Reserve command unit to be entirely stationed overseas.

news@stripes.com



Brig. Gen. Arlan M. DeBlick

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PACIFIC

A tale of terror on the high seas during WWII

By CARLOS BONGIOANNI

Stars and Stripes

Just past midnight July 30, 1945, two torpedoes from an enemy submarine struck the USS Indianapolis, a World War II-era Navy cruiser with almost 1,200 people aboard. The subsequent explosions obliterated the ship's front end, and tons of water rushed in. Bulkheads crumpled under the force. The ship, tilting heavily on its right side, began to nose-dive into the Philippine Sea.

It took 12 minutes for it to sink. Moments before the Indy's tail end plunged into the water, Marine Cpl. Edgar Harrell hung onto the ship's left-side railing. Terrified, he realized he might not survive. As a sense of "utter helplessness" came upon him, Harrell said he cried out to God for help.

"I often say, 'There are times when you pray and there are times when you PRAY,'" Harrell, 89, said in a recent telephone interview about the horrors the Indy's crew faced when the ship sunk. "I don't know what all I promised the Lord, but I knew to whom I was speaking. ..."

In his recently published book, "Out of the Depths," a first-person account that Harrell co-wrote with his son, David, he describes "an unexplainable and ineffable peace" that enveloped him as he prayed. As he walked down the ship's keel, which had become a ramp leading into the water, "the chill of terror was replaced with the glowing warmth of divine assurance."

Nearly 300 of the Indy's crew went down with the ship. Of the 900 who abandoned ship, only 317 would survive. Harrell would have to remind himself over the next four days not to lose hope but to cling to the conviction that God would see him through.

Harrell, one of 36 survivors still living today, said he expected to see 15 or 16 of his former shipmates at a reunion last weekend in Indianapolis commemorating the 69th anniversary of the sinking. Hundreds of second-, third- and fourth-generation family members of the crewmembers were also expected to be there, sharing stories and catching up.

A day doesn't go by, Harrell said, that the memories of the sinking and days spent afloat in shark-infested waters don't haunt him. For years, he was unable to fully talk about what happened without reliving the terror. Writing about the disaster has been cathartic and given him a new purpose.

"I'm on the road telling the story. I have 17 speaking engagements, six different states," he said. "So as long as I'm still young enough to do it, I'm on the road all the time."

A realization

Harrell said he's amazed so few people know the story of the USS Indianapolis. The U.S. military had selected the Indy for a highly classified mission from California to the Pacific island of Tinian. Only after their rescue and while convalescing at a military hos-



Courtesy of indysurvivor.com

Above left: USS Indianapolis crewmembers fire their guns during World War II.

Above right: Survivors of the sinking are en route to a hospital following their rescue.



Courtesy of the Naval History and Heritage Command

pital in the Pacific did the Indy survivors learn that the top-secret cargo they delivered contained nuclear material for the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, leading to Japan's surrender.

Invited to speak at colleges, high schools and grade schools, Harrell said he has found much ignorance among educators and students about how WWII ended and how the Indy played a vital part in that. What astounds him most is the lack of knowledge concerning the Indy's sinking.

"The largest casualty at sea in the history of the U.S. Navy was the sinking of the USS Indianapolis. Why is it not many people know about it?"

Abandoning ship

Baptized by a thick layer of oil and fuel as he entered feet-first into the watery abyss, Harrell, then 20, found himself with about 80 shipmates, many severely wounded. Their screams added to the dread on that first night. A third of Harrell's group died before sunrise. The corpses became the constant companions of the living as they floated side by side.

Those who didn't die of injuries faced the onslaught of hypothermia. Harrell describes in his book how the body reacts when its core temperature drops just a few degrees. The central nervous system begins to shut down as apathy and amnesia set in and speech is inhibited.

With the core temperature at 91 degrees, Harrell notes that "the kidneys stop filtering waste and the body becomes poisoned. Finally, breathing becomes difficult, the heartbeat weakens and you drift out of awareness of your surroundings."

Praying for daylight to arrive, the shivering survivors would then find themselves begging for

night to fall to protect them from the relentless heat, which would reach 110 degrees. With lips blistered and cracked from the sun, the survivors faced severe dehydration. Most had no food or water.

Then came the sharks. "At any given time, you could look out and see a big fin cutting through the water," Harrell recalled. "It isn't long until you see a straggler out there thrashing around in the water. Then you hear a blood-curdling scream and you look and you see that kapok jacket [go] under and then, like a fish cork, that kapok jacket brings the body back to the surface. ... When it does, then it's blood, blood, blood, shark, shark ... and you dare not to go and check you your buddy might have been."

The nightmare of that first day repeated itself as the survivors began to believe that no one was looking for them.

Some took their lives. Others began drinking saltwater to quench their thirst, affecting body function and brain activity.

With saltwater poisoning, some of the shipmates would become delirious. Harrell recalled. "And your buddy may become your enemy. ... He may think that you've got a canteen of water hidden in your kapok life jacket." Sometimes a shipmate would unsheathe a knife and stab the person next to him, he said.

By the third day, Harrell said his group of 80 had dwindled to 17. By the fourth day, he found himself half-delirious and alone with a Navy lieutenant, drifting on the swells.

An act of 'providence'

In his book, Harrell recounts mistakes by Navy personnel who ignored distress signals sent from the Indy and who took no action when the cruiser failed to arrive at its destination. Had search-and-rescue operations been launched immediately, he believes, hundreds who died from shark attacks, dehydration or hypothermia might have been saved.

Harrell calls it miraculous that any of the Indy's crew made it out of the water alive. It was an act of "providence," he said, that a Navy aviator, trying to stabilize an errant antenna on the rear of his aircraft, just happened to

look down while flying over the area of the sinking. Seeing oil on the water and thinking it might have been from a Japanese sub, he flew

lower, preparing to drop bombs. He quickly aborted that mission after spotting men in the water.

A call for help went out, and rescue operations began Aug. 2, 1945.

Seeing herds of sharks attacking the survivors, a Navy aviator sent to the area to drop rafts and supplies disobeyed orders and landed his aircraft in the water. The rescue crew loaded as many survivors as they could and strapped more to the wings. They eventually picked up 56 grateful survivors, including Harrell, before nightfall. Ships arriving at the scene later that night and the next morning rounded up the rest of the survivors.

In his book, Harrell recounts how the Navy made the Indy's commanding officer, Capt. Charles McVay III, a scapegoat, while trying to cover up its own gross negligence. At a court-martial in December 1945, the Navy found McVay guilty of hazarding a ship by not taking evasive action.

For years, he received hate mail

To view more USS Indianapolis photos and a timeline, go to: stripes.com/go/indy

from family members of those who died in the disaster. In 1968, he killed himself.

For more than 50 years, the survivors fought the Navy to clear their captain's "good name." Then two unrelated events converged to shed a different light on the matter.

In 1955, the Navy made its 1945 war documents public in the National Archives. About the same time, a sixth-grader from Florida became interested in the USS Indianapolis after watching the movie "Jaws." A research project would lead to a five-year lobbying effort to clear McVay of his court-martial conviction. President Bill Clinton signed a congressional resolution in October 2000 that exonerated McVay.

Finding closure

The long crusade to clear McVay's name consumed the survivors, who said the way the Navy dealt with their captain and the sinking set them adrift in a lonely sea of neglect a second time.

A radio broadcast reporting the Indy's demise and loss of life came only after President Harry Truman announced Japan's surrender on Aug. 14, 1945, nearly two weeks after the Navy began rescuing its survivors.

Harrell believes the Navy tried to keep the incident under wraps to underplay any possible charges of culpable negligence. News of Japan's surrender and the end of WWII dwarfed the news of the Indy's sinking.

Years ago, before McVay was exonerated, the Navy planned to honor an admiral and his reunion and present them with a presidential unit citation award, Harrell said. "We sent word back, 'Don't come. Don't come. We'll embarrass you. We'll refuse it until our good captain is exonerated.' ..."

"We're satisfied now that they have done all they're going to do. ... So we aren't a thorn in their flesh anymore."

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'I often say, 'There are times when you pray and there are times when you PRAY.''

Marine Cpl. Edgar Harrell
survivor of USS Indianapolis sinking

NATION



HECTOR AMEZCUA, THE SACRAMENTO (CALIF.) BEE/AP

California Sand Fire spreads

A DC-10 Air Tanker makes a drop on the so-called Sand Fire at the middle fork of the Cosumnes River in Northern California as firefighters stand by on Saturday. The fire, which forced the evacuation of about 700 homes, has destroyed five homes and seven outbuildings. Hundreds of firefighters are working in rugged terrain and triple-digit temperatures to contain the blaze, which broke out Friday.

Philly carjacking suspects still on run

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Two carjackers who fled after ramming a stolen SUV into a family selling fruit for their church, killing three young siblings, were still on the run Saturday as the reward for their capture topped \$100,000.

The children's mother, Keisha Williams, 34, remained in critical condition at Temple University Hospital. Her slain children were identified as Keiarran Williams, 15, Thomas Reed, 10, and Terence Moore, 7.

The two suspects fled on foot after crashing the stolen car Friday morning at a North Philadelphia intersection. They had first carjacked a real estate agent, 45, at gunpoint and later forced her into the backseat of her SUV, authorities said.

The woman was also hospitalized after, was a 65-year-old woman helping the family with the fruit stand. Their names weren't being released, and their conditions weren't immediately available Saturday.

"All they said was my grandma got hit, and there were bodies everywhere," Sakina Brown, granddaughter of the elder victim, told The Philadelphia Inquirer. "My heart was about to jump out of my chest."

She said her grandmother had seen the vehicle coming and tried unsuccessfully to get out of the way. She suffered a broken ankle and bruised sternum when she was struck.

The group holds the fundraiser every week to raise money for a church effort to turn the corner lot into a playground, Brown said.

Eyewitnesses who rushed to help the injured described a gruesome scene. One woman rushed to the boys, finding one with only a light pulse and the other with none.

The reward for the suspects' arrest has reached \$110,000, thanks to contributions from the city and the Fraternal Order of Police. Police have also asked nearby businesses for surveillance videos and were getting tips from the public.

"There are no words to describe how I feel right now," said police Commissioner Charles Ramsey, "but we do need to find these two guys."

Police believe the suspects may have blown a tire as they turned a corner at high speed. The car ended up in a wooded area, its front end smashed against a stand of trees.

'Spider-Man' charged with slugging NY officer

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A man dressed as Spider-Man was arrested on charges he slugged a police officer who told him to stop harassing tourists in Times Square.

Junior Bishop, 25, of Brooklyn, was charged with assaulting an officer, resisting arrest and criminal mischief.

The New York Police Department said the officer who was assaulted Saturday — an 18-month veteran and one of about 50 officers patrolling the bustling tourist area — stepped in after Bishop demanded at least \$5 from a woman he posed for a picture with, instead of the \$1 tip

she offered.

Police said a costumed Bishop "put out his hand and told the woman \$5, 10s or 20s only." Police said the officer told him he could only accept tips — not require payment.

Bishop yelled and cursed at the officer, police said, and told him, "Mind your own (expletive) business." Police said the officer asked for identification, and when Bishop failed to produce any, moved to arrest him.

Bishop broke free and punched the officer in the face, police said, causing a cut and eye swelling.

The officer, whose name was not released, was treated at New York University's Langone Medi-

cal Center and released.

Other officers arrived and hauled Spider-Man away.

Bishop's mother answered the phone at their Brooklyn home late Saturday and said he was not home. She said she was not aware of his work in Times Square or his arrest.

The arrest of Spider-Man, as police referred to Bishop throughout a matter-of-fact news release, came weeks after the New York City Council said it was considering legislation to regulate the costumed characters in Times Square.

It was the latest in a series of incidents involving men behind the masks.

Ariz. execution renews debate over methods

By PAUL ELIAS
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A third execution by lethal injection has gone awry in six months, renewing debate in the U.S. over whether there is a foolproof way for the government to humanely kill condemned criminals, and whether it's even worth looking for one.

Death penalty opponents say any killing is an unnecessarily cruel punishment. Proponents may favor the most humane execution method possible, but many reject the idea that a few minutes or hours of suffering by a criminal who caused great suffering to others should send the government back to the drawing board.

Thirty years ago, states and the federal government gave little thought to the condemned inmates' comfort. Most executioners used electric chairs, but death row inmates were also hanged, put to death in the gas chamber or faced a firing squad.

In 1977, an Oklahoma medical director, Dr. Jay Chapman, came up with a three-drug combination that promised to put the inmate to sleep before painlessly and quickly drifting off to death. Chapman's formula replaced the state's use of the electric chair.

Now, calls are mounting to scrap lethal injection, even by those who support capital punishment, such as Chief Judge Alex Kozinski, of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. He believes a completely humane method of execution isn't possible and favors firing squads.

"If we as a society cannot stomach the splatter from an execution carried out by a firing squad, then we shouldn't be carrying out executions at all," Kozinski wrote June 21 in support of carrying out Joseph Rudolph Wood's execution.

More than 1,200 inmates have been executed by lethal injection. But medical ethicists and professional licensing boards for doctors

and nurses forbid their participation in executions, which are carried out by lay workers who sometimes struggle with administering a lethal injection.

Further, pharmaceutical companies — particularly those based in Europe — are refusing to ship prisons the three drugs necessary to mimic Chapman's mixture. That has caused prison officials to scramble to find alternative drugs that may not kill as quickly.

On Wednesday, Wood gasped for air for 90 minutes and took about two hours to die after receiving an injection.

After questions over the amount of time it took for Wood to die, Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer has ordered a review of the state's execution protocol. Governors in Ohio and Oklahoma have ordered similar reviews of botched executions.



Kozinski

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NATION

CEO F-bomb usage sways with economy

Informal review finds profanity use tends to rise as profits fall

By Jeff Green
Bloomberg News

TSOUTHFIELD, Mich. — The chief executive officer of Scotts Miracle-Gro Co. is no stranger to profanity in his calls with analysts. On May 5, James Hagedorn did something different: After swearing, he apologized.

Bad words have been much in the news recently, with both the mayor of Los Angeles and the CEO of T-Mobile US Inc. using what has become known as the F-bomb. For those who think the increasing use of profanity in public is another sign that the world is going to heck in a handbasket, however, here's the good news: For executives, tolerance of potty talk is on the wane and their public swearing is on the downslope.

It turns out that public profanity among top executives is sensitive to economic conditions, according to a Bloomberg News review of thousands of CEO calls with investors and analysts from 2004 to last month. It spiked in the aftermath of the recession in 2009 and has been decreasing as the recovery gathers steam over the last couple of years.

The cursing follows the same up and down trajectory as unemployment and gross domestic product, although swearing has a more dramatic path, according to the data.

"It swings back and forth," said Timothy Jay, a professor in the psychology department at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts in North Adams, who has written several books on cursing and studies its effect on society.

Swearing is a tension release, so it's not surprising it would increase during a bad economic environment, Jay said. He said he practices it a lot, too, particularly during golf outings. It might be helpful as a better way to let off steam than physical action,

he said. "People are often playing to the audience and in many cases you have a CEO trying to motivate people to change, to get a message across," Jay said.

A kind of pe-

riodic table of salty words — the F-bomb, the blasphemous GD, the scatological S and derogatory term AH — shows that they were used 254 times by top executives in calls during that decade. They appeared 17, 34, 197 and 6 times, respectively. To be sure, a majority of CEOs don't curse in public. In fact, three account for quite a bit of the graphic language. They are kind of a Cursing Hall of Fame.

Hagedorn, along with Ryanair Holdings Chief Executive Officer Michael O'Leary and Emerson Electric Co. CEO David Farr are the only top executives to use the F-bomb more than once. Hagedorn used that word three times along with the other expletives for a total of 20 swear words. O'Leary followed with five F-bombs among 17 instances, and Farr with two Fs among 10 total that were transcribed.

All three executives have made attempts to temper public displays of such colorful language in the past year, according to their companies.

The Scotts board unanimously supported a reprimand last year of Hagedorn that stemmed from the use of inappropriate language, the company said in a June 3, 2013, statement that didn't include details of the incident. Three board members resigned from Marysville, Ohio-based Scotts after casting the vote, according to the statement.

Hagedorn, who merged his family's Miracle-Gro into Scotts in 1995 and took over as CEO in 2001, has often used spicy language, such as this, from a Feb. 14, 2012, date to a meeting with investors at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York.

"So I'm walking over here this morning, and it looks like a doorman dude or something, but he's got this huge thing of like roses, and he's got a big smile on his face," Hagedorn said. "I'm like f---, Valentine's Day! So my wife is here for the first time. I love you, Dear, Happy Valentine's Day."

The company acknowledges the shift away from swearing is a work in progress.

"It is no secret that Jim uses colorful language at times in his everyday conversations and sometimes he does so in public venues," said Jim King, a Scotts spokesman, via email. "He has been attempting to moderate his language in recent years,

especially in public."

Historically, most controls on swearing have been meant to protect women and children against blasphemy, particularly those enforced starting in about the 15th century in England, Jay said. Today, children are already mimicking adults in their choice of curse words starting around 8 years old, Jay said, based on research published this year on data gathered on 1,127 curse words overheard from children 1 to 12.

Ryanair's O'Leary is well-known for his coarse language and blunt approach to running the Dublin, Ireland, low-cost airline, and the company has opted to give him fewer opportunities to display those tendencies of late, as part of a broader plan to improve the airline's image. O'Leary's diatribes included railing against government policy, competitors and the weather.

O'Leary, in an email response for this story, wrote: "How dare you tell me salty when in fact I'm warm, cuddly, cute and caring, even if a little bit misunderstood at times. Lots of love."

At Emerson, the St. Louis-based maker of air-conditioner compressors and equipment for power plants, CEO Farr made his mark in the annals of conference call cursing with two particularly strong exchanges.

One occurred in February 2013, when he told investors: "We are not a one-trick pony. If I see that in writing one more g-d--- time, I'm going to tear them apart. We are not a one-trick pony, we do well in China, g-d--- it, and I'm not embarrassed by it, but we're not a g-d--- one-trick pony. I apologize for swearing. You guys p--- me off when you write that, if you haven't figured that out."

Farr is also one of the few CEOs who routinely apologized for cursing.

The record for the most uses of one expletive among the data goes to Cypress Semiconductor Corp. Chief Financial Officer Brad Buss, whose retirement from the chipmaker was announced in April. Buss swore the S-word so many times, 28 in total, that analysts took to quoting it back to him in questions, often catching him unaware he had even used the term, according to transcripts.

The only woman transcribed using the F-word was Carol Bartz in 2009, when the then-CEO of Yahoo Inc. talked about "nobody f---ing doing anything" to fix problems at the Web portal company. Bartz was ousted from Sunnyvale, Calif.-based Yahoo in September 2011.

Whatever the trend in conference call cursing, mainstream America isn't toning down the language, according to Marchex Inc., a call analysis and marketing company in Seattle that provides software helping companies detect swearing on calls with customers. Profanity has risen each year since 2012, based on the analysis of 2 million calls, said John Busby, senior vice president of the Marchex Institute, which analyzes the data.

NATION

Red flags seen for 2015 health renewals

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — If you have health insurance on your job, you probably don't give much thought to each year's renewal. But make the same assumption in one of the new health law plans, and it could lead to costly surprises.

Insurance exchange customers who opt for convenience by automatically renewing their coverage for 2015 are likely to receive dated and inaccurate financial aid amounts from the government, say industry officials, advocates and other experts. If those amounts are too low, consumers could get sticker shock over their new premiums. Too high, and they'll owe the tax man later.

Automatic renewal was supposed to make the next open enrollment under President Barack Obama's health care overhaul smooth for consumers.

But unless the administration changes

its 2015 approach, "they're setting people up for large and avoidable premium increases," said researcher Caroline Pearson, who follows the health law for the market analysis firm Avalere Health.

It could be a new twist on an old public relations headache for the White House: You keep the health plan you like but get billed way more.

"It was our preference for [the administration] to have the capacity to update people's subsidy information, but they haven't been able to get that built," said Brendan Buck, a spokesman for the industry trade group America's Health Insurance Plans.

Here's the issue, in a nutshell:

To streamline next year's open enrollment season, the Health and Human Services Department recently proposed offering automatic renewal to 8 million consumers who are already signed up. But the fine print of the HHS announcement said consumers who auto enroll will get

"the exact dollar amount" of financial aid they are receiving this year.

That's likely to be a problem for a couple of reasons, not to mention inflation.

First, financial aid is partly based on premiums for a current benchmark plan in the community where the consumer lives. Because more plans are joining the market and insurers are submitting entirely new bids for 2015, the benchmark in many communities will be different.

Second, financial aid is also based on household income. If your income goes down, you are entitled to a bigger health insurance tax credit. If it goes up, you get less. The 2014 amounts could well be out of date and incorrect for many people. Financial assistance is also affected by age, family size and where people live.

And that doesn't get into another motivation for consumers to shop around: Premiums and choices for 2015 are changing, so your current

plan may no longer be a good deal.

"Just continuing in the same plan with the same credit is not going to be the optimal outcome for most people," said Judy Solomon, of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, which advocates for low-income people.

About eight in 10 of those who signed up for private coverage under the health care law are getting financial aid. In the 36 states served by the federal insurance exchange, the tax credits average \$264 a month, reducing the average monthly premium of \$346 to just \$82.

Even with such generous subsidies, about four in 10 who bought a health law plan say they have trouble paying their premiums, according to a poll by the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation.

Open enrollment starts Nov. 15, and consumers who already have a policy will have about a month to renew or make changes to avoid a break in coverage Jan. 1.

Visa glitch leaves family stranded

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — After a long, bureaucratic year and a half, Mike Norton had little reason to doubt that by this weekend he'd finally welcome Joseph and Marianna, his new Chinese son and daughter, to their Laurel, Md., home where a big plastic playing area and a large yard with a rope swing, zip line and hammock wait.

Instead, Norton, 37, a senior director in information technology, his wife, Annie, and their now five children are living in a hotel room in Guangzhou, China, unable to leave because their adopted babies, both 20 months old, can't get their travel visas.

A worldwide computer glitch in the U.S. State Department's visa and passport record-keeping database has dramatically slowed

the processing at consulates everywhere.

The Nortons were forced to cancel their Friday morning flight home and tack on an extra hotel stay. No one can tell them whether they'll be there another few days or longer. They are simply told that the problem is being worked on as quickly as possible. And so they wait.

"We're well past 48 hours and there has been nothing of an update we can do anything with," Norton said in a phone interview. "Every day they string us along and say, 'Sorry we don't know more.'"

The State Department's Consular Consolidated Database, which keeps all the background check records on individuals seeking U.S. visas, started having

outage issues on July 19, creating a backlog.

The system went back online Wednesday, but is operating at a "significantly reduced capacity," according to the State Department, which could not say when it would be fully operational.

The cause of the outage is unknown, but State Department officials have ruled out foul play. Its impact is global, but officials would not provide an exact number of people held up.

In the 2013 fiscal year, more than 7,092 children were adopted from abroad and 2,306 from China, according to State Department statistics.

He estimates about 30 American families are waiting in Norton's Marriott hotel in one Chinese city.

Trial arrives for former Va. Gov. McDonnell, wife

The Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Former Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell, his reputation already tarnished and his political future destroyed by a gifts-for-favors scandal, faces the possibility of an even greater loss when his trial on federal corruption charges begins Monday.

The onetime rising Republican star and his wife, Maureen, could be sentenced to decades in prison if convicted of the charges in a 14-count indictment issued by a grand jury 10 days after McDonnell left office in January. They are accused of accepting more than \$165,000 in gifts and loans from Jonnie Williams, the founder of a dietary supplements company, in exchange for helping to promote his products.

Legal experts have said the case is no slam-dunk for the prosecution, however, and exceptionally strident language in court

filings points to a no-holds-barred battle that will pit the motives and credibility of the former first couple against Williams, who will testify for the prosecution under immunity. Defense attorneys have suggested the case is politically motivated and argued that prosecutors have stretched the meaning of federal bribery laws to cover routine and long-accepted political courtesies.

"The defense team for the governor appears to have been very active and aggressive, and that's what you have to do to meet the challenges in these kinds of cases," said Andrew Sacks, a defense attorney who represented a former Virginia lawmaker convicted of bribery and extortion in 2011.

After Sacks' client was sentenced to more than nine years in federal prison, McDonnell said, "Today's judgment is a reminder that no one is above the law."



BOB BROWN, RICHMOND (VA.)
TIMES-DISPATCH/AP

Former Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell prepares to enter the U.S. District Courthouse in Richmond, Va., on July 10.

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UKRAINE UNREST

Violence delays police visit to crash site

International investigative team is held back amid reports of fighting

By DMITRY LOVETSKY
AND PETER LEONARD
The Associated Press

DONETSK, Ukraine — A team of international police officers that had planned to start searching for evidence and the remaining bodies at the site of the Malaysian plane disaster in eastern Ukraine canceled their trip Sunday after receiving reports of fighting in the area.

Alexander Hug, the deputy head of a monitoring team from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, said it was too dangerous for the unarmed officers to travel to the site from its current location in the rebel-held city of Donetsk.

Malaysian Airlines Flight 17 was shot down with a surface-to-air missile over a part of eastern Ukraine controlled by pro-Russia separatists on July 17, killing all 298 people on board. U.S. and Ukrainian officials say it was shot down by a missile from rebel territory, most likely by mistake.

While it was not immediately clear where precisely clashes had broken out, a Ukrainian defense official said Sunday that government forces are undertaking efforts to clear the areas around the Boeing 777 crash site from separatist rebels.

Hug said the police mission, comprising officers from the Netherlands and Australia, will reconsider resuming operations if security improves. Malaysian experts are also due to join them this week.

"We continue to reassess the situation continuously and we will start to redeploy tomorrow morning back to the site if the situation changes," Hug said.

In his televised appearances since last Thursday's crash, Putin's demeanor hasn't wavered from his usual steely determination. He has allowed Russian media to propound theories blaming Ukrainian forces or suggesting a U.S. hand in the crash while refusing to deny such theories

help recover victims' remains.

Abbott said that by using unarmed police, Ukraine's Parliament will not need to ratify the deployment as it would if the security force were to be armed.

"This is a risky mission. There's no doubt about that," Abbott told reporters. "But all the professional advice that I have is that the safest way to conduct it is unarmed, as part of a police-led humanitarian mission," he said.

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak said in a statement that his country would send dozens of police and that his country had received assurances from pro-Russia separatists that they would provide protection for investigators.

Ten days after the disaster, a full-fledged investigation still has not begun at the site, compromising evidence and leaving some bodies still unrecovered. Concerns about the integrity

Flights from Ukraine to the Netherlands have taken 227 coffins containing victims of the plane disaster. Officials say the exact number of people held in the coffins needs to be determined by forensic experts in the Netherlands.

Ukrainian National Security Council spokesman Andrei Lysenko said Ukrainian troops were engaging rebels in fighting at several locations Sunday, including near the town of Debaltsevo, which is 15 miles northwest of the crash site. There was also fighting on the outskirts of Horlivka, one of the separatists' key strongholds, Lysenko said.

Ukraine and the United States have accused Russia of launching artillery attacks onto Ukrainian soil in recent days. Those claims have not been definitively verified. Meanwhile, the United States said it has seen powerful rocket systems moving closer to the Ukraine border.

and indirectly placing responsibility on the Ukrainians.

Just hours after the crash, Putin laid the groundwork for that approach, saying at a meeting of economic officials that "the tragedy would not have happened" if Ukraine had not resumed its military actions against rebels in late June. "The state over whose territory this occurred bears responsibility for this awful tragedy," he said.

That argument neither eludes a key issue—that the offense was renewed after a 10-day unilateral ceasefire that the pro-Russia rebels ignored. Throughout the eastern Ukraine crisis, now in its fourth month, Putin and his officials have consistently portrayed the conflict as Ukraine's unprincipled assault on its own



DMITRY LOVETSKY/AP

Dutch policemen walk in Donetsk, eastern Ukraine, on Sunday as an international investigative visit to the site of the Malaysian plane disaster was canceled due to reports of fighting in the area.

Arms embargo likely symbolic

The Associated Press

LONDON — An arms embargo against Russia would be little more than symbolic because Russia is largely self-sufficient in supplying its armed forces, a report argued Sunday.

European Union countries exported \$583 million of military equipment to Russia last year, less than 1 percent of the nation's \$68 billion defense budget, according to a study by IHS Jane's, which provides analysis on the defense industry and security issues. The bulk of that was a \$521 million payment to France, which is building two Mistral class warships for Russia.

The propriety of arms sales to Russia was questioned last week as the U.S. and the EU debated tougher sanctions against President Vladimir Putin's government because of its support for Ukrainian rebels, who are believed to have fired the missile that brought down Malaysia Airlines Flight 17, killing all 298 people on board.

Many of the existing arms deals are the product of a brief period between 2010 and 2012, when Rus-

sia sought Western help in modernizing its military, said Guy Anderson, a senior principal analyst for aerospace, defense and security at IHS Jane's. Putin reversed that strategy in 2012, when he decided that Russia should be self-sufficient once more and ordered the military to stop buying Western material.

The Jane's analysis shows that Russia wasn't even among the world's top 10 defense importers last year — though it was the No. 2 exporter behind the United States.

There are no EU countries among the top 10 buyers of Russian military material.

While Russia hasn't bought much strictly military equipment, it purchases a considerable amount of dual-use technology such as engines that can be used in both civilian and military vehicles, said Trevor Taylor, a professorial fellow at the Royal United Services Institute.

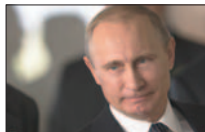
The EU, in a discussion paper on possible actions against Russia, suggested that banning shipments of dual-use goods to military users and companies that operate in both the military and civilian sectors could be an "effective and targeted measure."

After downing of airliner, Putin on offensive for long game

By JIM HEINTZ
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin might be expected to hunker down into defense mode as he is besieged by accusations of Russian involvement in the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17. Instead he has stayed on offense and appears to be positioning for the long game.

In his televised appearances since last Thursday's crash, Putin's demeanor hasn't wavered from his usual steely determination. He has allowed Russian media to propound theories blaming Ukrainian forces or suggesting a U.S. hand in the crash while refusing to deny such theories



Russian President Vladimir Putin

citizens, rather than as a move to take back a sizeable part of the country seized by heavily armed separatists.

The aim is to discredit the Kiev authorities without openly opposing them. Putin even spoke face-to-face in June with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, who had just been elected following the ouster of Viktor Yanukovich

in the wake of months of mass protests. But on Tuesday, he stepped up the aspersions in a meeting with his security council.

"True, they held elections after the takeover," Putin said. "However, for some strange reason, power ended up again in the hands of those who either funded or carried out this takeover."

That is where the long game appears to take shape.

By aggressively suggesting that Ukraine's instability is a prelude to Western designs on Russia, Putin not only deflects attention away from the plane crash, but strikes a chord in the Russian psyche. Russia characteristically sees itself as both a victim and mighty world power and as forever beleaguered by devious and violent forces dating to the Mon-

gol hordes and later including Napoleonic France, Poland, Sweden and, finally, Nazi Germany.

Even as he expresses concern about Russia's vulnerability, Putin also declares that "the recipes used regarding weaker states fraught with internal conflict will not work with us."

Resorting to the contradictory — yet popular — message may indicate the tight spot Putin finds himself in as he faces not only international opprobrium but the prospect of even more economic sanctions.

"He appears caught, first, by the possibility of very serious limitations from the West," analyst Fyodor Lukyanov was quoted as saying by the news website Ekspert. "Secondly, the psychological pressure is very serious."

WORLD

Gaza war rages despite truce efforts

BY IBRAHIM BARZAK
AND ARON HELLER
The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Israel and Hamas launched new attacks Sunday in the raging Gaza war, despite each side offering different truces to temporarily halt nearly three weeks of fighting ahead of a major Muslim holiday.

After initially rejecting an Israeli offer Saturday for a 24-hour truce, Hamas said Sunday it agreed to hold fire ahead of the Eid al-Fitr holiday marking the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan. But as Israel's Cabinet met to discuss the offer and the ongoing war, rockets rained down on southern Israel and Israeli strikes could be heard in Gaza.

Each side blamed the other for scuttling the efforts.

Hamas said that "due to the lack of commitment" by Israel, it resumed its fire. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that Hamas showed it could not be trusted after it violated other cease-fire efforts.

"Israel is not obliged and is not going to let a terrorist organization decide when it's convenient to fire at our cities, at our people, and when it's not," Netanyahu told "Fox News Sunday."

International diplomats had hoped a temporary lull could be expanded into a more sustainable truce to end the bloodshed, and U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon urged the sides on Sunday to accept a 24-hour break in fighting.

The 20-day war has killed more than 1,030 Palestinians, mainly civilians, according to Palestinian health officials. Israel has lost 43 soldiers, while two Israeli civilians and a Thai worker in



An Israeli tank fires toward Gaza near the Israel and Gaza border Sunday morning.

Israel were killed by rocket and mortar attacks from Gaza.

The Palestinian death toll was revised Sunday and an earlier figure dropped by 30 deaths, Gaza health official Ashraf al-Kidra said.

Israel says it launched the war on Hamas on July 8 to halt relentless rocket fire. It expanded its assault more than a week later, sending ground troops into the Gaza Strip to demolish Hamas' wide network of tunnels, which Israel sees as a strategic threat.

Each side remains far apart on terms for a final cease-fire. Hamas has demanded that a crippling Israeli and Egyptian blockade of Gaza be lifted and Israel has asked that Gaza be demilitarized.

Following Hamas' call for a break in fighting, an Israeli airstrike killed one person in Gaza when it hit a vehicle carrying

municipal workers on their way to fix water pipes, the Palestinian Red Crescent said.

Police said Israeli tanks resumed firing shells on densely populated areas south of Gaza City. One shell hit an apartment building and several shells struck a building at Tal Al Hawa. Navy boats also resumed firing on the coastal side of Gaza, police said.

The Israeli military did not immediately confirm that it resumed strikes.

Families in Gaza ordinarily would be busy now with preparations for the three-day Eid al-Fitr holiday, with children getting new clothes, shoes and haircuts, and families visiting each other.

In the outdoor market of the Jebeliya refugee camp, vendors set up stands with clothes and shoes, but said business was slow. Hamed Abdul Atta, 22, a shoe salesman, said he hadn't made a

single sale in the first three hours after opening.

Abul Atta said he and his family were staying with relatives after fleeing the Shijaiyah district of Gaza City, which has seen heavy fighting. He said a cousin and three other relatives were among dozens of people killed there last week.

"We can't feel any joy right now," he said when asked if he would mark the holiday.

Also after Hamas' call for a cease-fire, a rocket fired from Gaza lightly wounded one person in Israel, police said. Sirens wailed in a number of southern Israeli towns.

The Israeli military said earlier it would "resume its aerial, naval and ground activity in the Gaza Strip" after rockets continued to hit Israel. It said more than 50 rockets had been fired since midnight.

Spain: Gang busted in US passport scheme

MADRID — Spanish police say they have broken up a gang suspected of selling forged passports and resident cards for entry into the United States, arresting 14 of its members.

The organized group was allegedly composed of Cuban nationals who charged between \$1,300 and \$2,000 per forged document. They used a travel agency to attract potential customers, especially from among the Cuban community based in the Canary Island of Tenerife.

Officers arrested 11 Cubans and three Spaniards in Tenerife and Madrid, a police statement said Sunday.

Passenger with Ebola raises air travel alarm

ABUJA, Nigeria — Nigerian health authorities raced to stop the spread of Ebola on Saturday after a man sick with one of the world's deadliest diseases brought it by plane to Lagos, Africa's largest city, with 21 million people.

The fact that the traveler from Liberia could board an international flight also raised new fears that other passengers could take the disease beyond Africa due to weak inspection of passengers and the fact Ebola's symptoms are similar to those of other diseases.

Also, the aid organization Samaritan's Purse on Saturday said a U.S. doctor working with Ebola patients in Liberia had tested positive for the deadly virus. Dr. Kent Brantly was being treated at a hospital in Monrovia.

Costa Concordia arrives at final destination

GENOA, Italy — The shipwrecked Costa Concordia cruise liner completed its final journey Sunday, reaching Genoa, where it will be scrapped.

Pulled by tugboats and nudged by winds, the ship was eased into the port in northwest Italy.

The Concordia struck a reef when its captain sailed too close to Giglio Island off Tuscany's coast Jan. 13, 2012, and capsized, killing 32 people.

Demolition and scrapping will take an estimated two years. First, the wreck will be searched for any remains of an Indian waiter, the only body never found.

38 killed as Libyan forces battle militias

CAIRO — Heavy clashes between Libyan soldiers loyal to a renegade general and Islamist-led militias killed 38 people including civilians in the country's restive east, health officials said Sunday.

Forces loyal to Gen. Khalifa Hifter battled militias in the eastern city of Benghazi in clashes that started Saturday and continued through early Sunday morning, a security official said. Commando forces regained control of four military camps captured by Islamist militias in the past few days, the official said.

From The Associated Press

American bomber in Syria appears in video smiling

The Associated Press

BEIRUT — An al-Qaida-linked group fighting in Syria has released video of the first American to carry out a suicide attack in the country's civil war, showing him smiling and saying he looked forward to going to heaven.

The Nusra Front released the new video late Friday showing American citizen Moner Mohammad Abu-Salha, 22, with other fighters before the May 25 attack that targeted several army positions at the same time.

It said two of the other three suicide attackers in the assault in the government-held northwestern city of Idlib were from foreign countries, including one who was identified as being from the Maldives.

Abu-Salha appears smiling in the video and speaks in broken Arabic. "I want to rest in the afterlife, in heaven," Abu-Salha says. "There is nothing here and the heart is not resting. Heaven is

better. When people die they either go to heaven or hell. There is happiness beyond explanation."

The video, released by Nusra Front's media arm, al-Manara al-Bayda, was posted on jihadi websites. It corresponded with Associated Press reporting about the attack and Abu-Salha.

Opposition forces previously identified the American who carried out the bombing as Abu Hurayra al-Amriki and said he was a U.S. citizen. The name al-Amriki means "the American" in Arabic.

It's unknown how many people were killed in the bombing. Opposition rebels with the Nusra Front said Abu-Salha's truck was laden with 16 tons of explosives to tear down the al-Fanar restaurant, a gathering site for Syrian troops. The other suicide attackers targeted nearby army positions.

Abu-Salha grew up in Florida and attended several colleges before dropping out and moving abroad.



This frame grab from an undated video released Friday shows American suicide attacker Moner Mohammad Abu-Salha. The al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front said Abu-Salha is the first American to carry out a suicide attack in Syria's civil war.

Thousands of foreign fighters have come to Syria from around the world to fight against President Bashar Assad's forces after the uprising against his government began three years ago.

Meanwhile, a car bomb exploded Sunday in the central Syr-

ian city of Homs, killing at least seven people, the country's state news agency reported.

State news agency SANA said the vehicle targeted the Arman neighborhood, home to mostly minority Christians and Alawites, Assad's sect.

WORLD

Key differences revealed in comparative look at the first and third Gaza wars

By DAN PERRY

The Associated Press

CAIRO — The third Gaza war is playing out much like the first one more than five years ago: The harrowing civilian toll in Gaza is now at the center of the discourse, eclipsing the rocket attacks by Hamas militants that were the stated reason for the Israeli assault.

Then as now, a question persists: Beyond the carnage, are Israel's airstrikes against civilian locations achieving anything at all?

It ended messily for Israel in 2009. A U.N. commission investigated, Israel refused to cooperate and the resulting report — since then partly disavowed by its own author, former South African Judge Richard Goldstone — said Israel deliberately targeted civilians and might have committed war crimes, along with Hamas.

About 1,400 Palestinians, including many hundreds of civilians, were killed in the operation dubbed "Cast Lead," along with 13 Israelis. After 18 days this year, the civilian death toll of operation "Protective

Edge" is at similar levels — and the proportion is higher. Israel's argument is similar as well: Hamas is to blame not only for attacking a much stronger power with rockets but also for operating from within heavily populated residential areas as well as mosques, hospitals and schools.

Navi Pillay, the U.N. high commissioner for human rights, said Wednesday that some of the recent Israeli attacks, including those on homes and on a care center for the disabled, raise "a strong possibility that international law has been violated in a manner that could amount to war crimes."

She also condemned indiscriminate Hamas attacks — including 3,000 rockets fired since July 8 that have killed several civilians in Israel — and said storing military equipment in civilian areas or launching attacks from there is unacceptable. But "the actions of one party do not absolve the other party of the need to respect its obligations under international law," she added.

International law can be a fuzzy and subjective thing, its application dependent on circumstances. The wider context also affects the degree of political pressure on Israel to stop. So it is important to note that there are also key differences between now and 2009. Here's a comparative look:

Rockets have more range

It is hard for outsiders to grasp the meaning, of Tel Aviv. The seaside metropolis of about 2 million is prosperous and fun, and an easy, generally liberal atmosphere prevails. It is a place of high tech, of electric nightlife, of diverse and highly Westernized culture, of surfing and gay pride parades. It is essential to an often unspoken but profound feeling that many Israelis cling to, which oddly aligns with what Arab critics would say: That they somehow do not belong in the Middle East.

In 2009, Hamas was firing relatively small projectiles with minimal range, mostly aimed at border communities surrounding the blockaded Gaza Strip. These are gritty places: hardscrabble towns that are relatively poor, or kibbutz farming communities whose people are often idealistic and pioneering. The people under fire here were certainly displeased, but by and large had no illusions about where they live.

Now Hamas is firing at Tel Aviv, which is 50 miles north of the strip, and even at some cities beyond. One landed near Tel Aviv's airport, causing U.S. and European airlines to suspend flights. Millions are living with the threat of rockets every day. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu



AP photos

Smoke from an Israeli strike rises over Gaza City, Gaza Strip, on Sunday. Below left: A Palestinian shows his pet bird, which he managed to catch amid the rubble of houses destroyed by Israeli strikes in Beit Hanoun, Gaza Strip. Below right: A Palestinian girl holds plastic bottles waiting to fill them with drinking water at a public tap in the Gaza town of Jabaliya on Sunday.



can go on TV and ask Americans what they would do if New York or Chicago were under constant rocket attack. The argument resonates, the world seems to be listening, and even many in the Arab world agree. So Israel gets more room to maneuver.

It's not the same Hamas

Hamas rode relatively high in 2009, in its own particular way.

The Islamic militant group had legitimately won Palestinian parliamentary elections in 2006, was denied the share of

power it wanted by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, and in a little over a year had battled its way to full control of Gaza. It promised cleaner government than the Palestinian Authority and was relatively popular as a result.

Israelis and much of the world, remembering suicide bombings and bus attacks, rejected Hamas as a terrorist group, to be blockaded and shunned. But in the Arab world at least, there was a veneer of legitimacy. Hamas had powerful supporters in Iran and the Gulf, and neighboring Egypt was not openly an enemy back then.

Much has happened since in the Arab

world, and it hasn't helped Hamas. The Arab Spring brought a wave of Islamist successes, followed by a widespread sense of their misrule. In Egypt, the Muslim Brotherhood, which largely spawned Hamas, is now outlawed; its leaders are on trial and the group is portrayed by media as terrorists. Jihadis cut from a similar cloth as Hamas are considered in leading Arab circles to have brought destruction and disgrace in Syria, Iraq, Libya, Yemen and Egypt's own Sinai region.

There is not much love for Israel in the Arab world, and growing horror at the civilian deaths in Gaza. But many in the region seem nonetheless pleased to see Hamas get hammered, and some would be happier still to see it gone.

Netanyahu is no Olmert

There are two kinds of governments in Israel when it comes to the heart of the matter, which is peace with the Palestinians and the possibility of a Palestinian state.

One kind was in power during "Cast Lead." Prime Minister Ehud Olmert was clearly committed to pulling out of the West Bank one way or another and was making rather far-reaching offers to Abbas: a state in all of Gaza and the vast majority of the West Bank, and a share in Jerusalem. For a variety of reasons, no deal was struck, but Olmert was perceived as serious on the Palestinian issue. This opens doors and spreads positivity, and Israel enjoyed some success as a result.

It's a very different story under Netanyahu. He dropped his lifelong opposition to a Palestinian state in recent years — but his terms are very far from those of the Palestinians. Jewish settlement construction in the West Bank is roaring ahead, and nine months of peace talks got scarcely beyond quibbles and procedure. Netanyahu's own party continues to oppose a Palestinian state, and there is a sense of a wink about his moves in this regard. And so the region and the world view him with considerable suspicion.

A sense of predictable futility

During the 2008-2009 campaign, it was not exactly clear what the outcome would be. Would Hamas break under the assault? Would the people of Gaza blame Hamas for their suffering and overthrow the group? Is victory possible? It was not even clear whether Israel ruled out reoccupying the strip, from which it had withdrawn four years earlier.

The answers to those questions are clearer now. In both campaigns, as well as another one in late 2012, Hamas has shown that it will simply continue firing rockets no matter what the outcome to the people of Gaza. Hamas does not seem on the verge of being overthrown despite its heavy-handed rule, and the people actually support Hamas' stated goal of ending the Israeli-Egyptian blockade so much that there seems to be scant pressure on Hamas to give in.

On the Israeli side, there is minimal desire to retake the inhospitable strip.

It's also clear that Israel's various efforts to minimize the deaths with a variety of warnings aren't working well. For the third time, the world sees images of whole families buried under rubble, of children in a morgue. And for all its claims of precision, Israel's military is having trouble producing detailed explanations of why any particular building was hit.

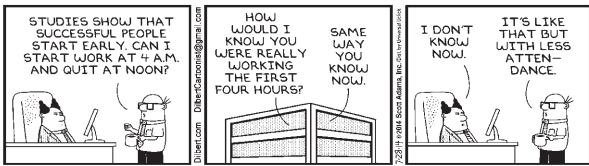
It lends a sense of predictable futility to the proceedings, and raises questions in Israel itself about the strategy. The answer tends to be that doing nothing in response to rocket fire on cities is not an option. That logic dominates the Israeli discourse for now. But to many, it is starting to feel uncomfortable nonetheless.

In 2009, Hamas was firing relatively small projectiles with minimal range, mostly aimed at border communities surrounding the blockaded Gaza Strip. Now Hamas is firing at Tel Aviv, which is 50 miles north of the strip, and even at some cities beyond.

Frazz



Dilbert



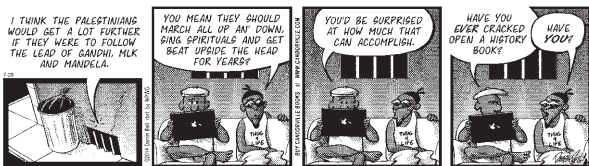
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



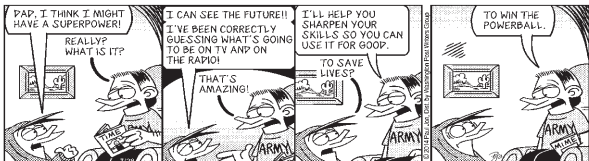
Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15									16			
			17				18	19				
20	21	22				23						
24					25				26	27		
28					29				30		31	
	32		33						34			
					35				36			
37	38	39					40					
41						42	43			44	45	46
47						48						
49						50				51		

ACROSS

- Small plateau
- "Fee-fie-fo- —!"
- Harvester's collection
- Pay off gradually
- Peru's capital
- Sofia's place
- Now, on a memo
- Before
- Paparazzo's need
- Food from heaven
- Black belt activity
- Fired a gun
- Jungle illness
- Woman, informally
- Overly theatrical
- Martini ingredient
- Region of Germany
- Soft drink
- Ontario neighbor
- Knapsack part
- Decline
- Tavern
- Yale students
- Schubert masterpiece
- Cleopatra's river
- Subscription extensions
- Highway fee
- Chopper
- Look for

DOWN

- Folkloric fairy queen
- Ostrich's cousin
- Fa follower
- Silver, heraldry
- Conflagration
- Submachine gun
- Latin "Oops!"
- Din
- Get up
- Actor Sharif
- Hemingway sobriquet
- O'Hara's plantation
- "Rome wasn't built in —"
- Flavor enhancer, for short
- Moby Dick's pursuer
- The Big Easy acronym
- Fox or Farr
- Red sauce
- Composer Stravinsky
- Verdi opera
- Give a darn
- Siesta
- Container
- They're drawn randomly
- Unchanged
- Departed
- Hodgepodge
- Streamlet
- Part of N.B.
- Irritate
- "Norma —"
- de France
- Invite

Answer to Previous Puzzle

B	A	L	M	S	P	E	W	A	L	L
E	L	I	A	T	A	X	I	L	E	E
N	O	D	S	U	N	I	T	O	V	A
Z	E	S	T	P	T	L	Q	T	I	P
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S	A	C	R	E	D	S	H	I	N	E
A	D	A	M	S			A	Z	U	R
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Q	U	A	D		D	A	M		S	L
U	S	B		P	E	S	O		T	O
I	D	A		E	A	S	T		E	G
T	A	B		A	R	N	E		R	O

7-28

CRYPTOQUIP

G P P V G Y L T Q O J U T V S B G S
Q T A Y P S E G E Y X G Z V T W G L Y V M
J W U T D M O J Y E M Z Y D Q E :

"PBTATDE ZM SBT QJXTO."
Saturday's Cryptoquip: COULD FITNESS GUR RICHARD GROW HIS OWN LARGE ORANGE FRUITS AND CALL THEM SIMMONS' PERSIMMONS? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals T

NATION



MATT ROURE/AP

A worker loads vegetables onto a food-washing machine July 8 at Marolda Farm in Vineland, N.J. A growing network of companies and organizations is delivering food directly from local farms to institutions like hospitals and schools, eliminating middlemen while increasing profits for smaller farms and bringing consumers healthier foods.

Federal aid, consumer demand help locally grown foods become big business

By MARY CLARE JALONICK
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA
Once a niche business, locally grown foods aren't just for farmers' markets anymore.

A growing network of companies and organizations is delivering food directly from local farms to major institutions like Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in downtown Philadelphia, eliminating scores of middlemen from farm to fork. They're also increasing profits and recognition for smaller farms and bringing consumers healthier, fresher foods.

Over the past five years, with more than \$25 million in federal aid, these so-called food hubs have helped transform locally grown foods into a bigger business, supplying hospitals, schools, restaurant chains and grocery stores as consumer demand grows.

Major institutions like Jefferson have long relied on whatever giant food service companies provide, often processed foods that are delivered efficiently and are easy to heat and serve. With a steady supply of locally grown food from the Common Market food hub, Jefferson now serves vegetables like bok choy and asparagus, creamy yogurts from Amish country and omelets with locally sourced cage-free eggs and spinach.

The model is simple. Common Market, a nonprofit, picks up food from 75 regional farmers and small food companies and

quickly turns it around in its Philadelphia warehouse. The food — everything from vegetables to turkey to tofu — is then sent to 220 city customers along with detailed information about where it was grown or produced. There are about 300 other similar food hubs around the country.

Shelley Chamberlain, of Jefferson's dining services, said the hospital hopes to eventually source 10 percent of its food from Common Market. The items can be a bit more expensive and take more labor and training to cook, but Chamberlain said it's worth it to serve healthier foods.

"We can't go out to farms and say, 'I'd like to buy your cucumbers,' 'I'd like to buy your bok choy,' 'I'd like to buy your carrots,'" she said. "They provide an infrastructure for us to trust what is coming in the door."

Buzby, of A.T. Buzby Farm in Woodstown, N.J., said it's a movement to ward "farm to institution." Three times a week, Common Market picks up tomatoes, sweet corn, eggplant, cantaloupes and other produce from her farm and sells the food in Philadelphia, 35 miles away.

She said Common Market is helping her business get urban name recognition. "People are just becoming so interested in their food and where it comes from," Buzby said. "I only see it getting better."

It's a cultural transformation for the agriculture industry — and the Agriculture Department — which has long been focused on the biggest farms and staple crops like corn and soybeans. Most fruits

'Know Your Farmer'

The USDA has upped its commitment to building small farms and locally grown food with a program started in 2009 called "Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food." Boosting food hubs like Common Market has been one of its priorities. There isn't good data yet on locally grown food sales, but the USDA says it has touched almost 3,000 separate projects.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said it's a part of a government effort to revitalize rural areas, which have been losing population — and important political clout.

"It's all designed to reconnect people with the food that they consume so that there is a better appreciation, a greater appreciation, for the amazing story of American agriculture regardless of what production system you favor, or what sized operation you have," he said.

— The Associated Press

and vegetables are shut out of major subsidy programs as billions of federal dollars flow to large growers.

Haile Johnston said he co-founded Common Market in 2008 after seeing how little farmers were making at wholesale and how much customers were paying for the same foods in the city.

"The two anchors of the chain, the producers and consumers, are really the most marginalized in this system," he said.

Johnston said hospitals like Jefferson, along with schools, were a part of their model from the start because they could be a steady source of business and serve a large number of low-income people who may not have much access to produce.

In 2008, Common Market generated \$125,000 in sales. This year, the organization is set to surpass \$2.5 million — all money reinvested into the nonprofit. Last year, Common Market received a \$300,000 USDA grant designed to improve access to healthier foods in low-income communities.

New York City's Greenmarket Co. and Detroit's Eastern Market are running similar models, with help from the USDA.

The USDA has helped these hubs and farmers that supply them with research dollars, technical support, microloans, infrastructure such as hoop houses for winter growth and help buying equipment.

In Mississippi, Wal-Mart has started buying purple hull peas — similar to black-eyed peas — directly from farmers in the Mississippi Delta, a deal cemented with USDA help. One of the farmers, Charles Houston, said the checks from Wal-Mart have helped many of his area's small farms survive, paying for new irrigation and infrastructure.

Wal-Mart, the nation's largest retailer, pledged to double its share of locally grown foods between 2009 and 2015.

SCIENCE AND MEDICINE

Spend time alone? No, thanks

Study: Thinking by yourself isn't much fun

BY MALCOLM RITTER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK

Wouldn't you love to escape this busy world and just spend some time alone with your thoughts? Maybe not, says a study of volunteers who actually tried it.

Some even started giving themselves electric shocks as the minutes ticked by.

"I think many of them were trying to shock themselves out of boredom," said psychologist Timothy Wilson, of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. "It's just a sign of how difficult (being alone with one's thoughts) can be for people. ... This isn't something that most people find really enjoyable."

At least, that's the case for people not trained in techniques like meditation, Wilson and co-authors say in a paper released last month by the journal *Science*.

In a series of experiments, college students left their cellphones and other distractions behind and spent six to 15 minutes alone in a sparsely furnished room on campus. They were told to entertain themselves just with their thoughts, or imagine doing one of three pleasant activities such as hiking.

The experience was not exactly heaven. On a 9-point scale of enjoyment, their average rating was about in the middle. About half the participants gave it a rating at the halfway mark or below.

In nonscientific terms, the overall verdict was: Eh.

Doing it at home proved no more enjoyable. When the researchers had 61 people from the community try it at home, about half admitted to cheating by doing things like checking their cellphones, writing or doodling. Their overall results were about the same as with the students.

The most startling experiment involved the electric shock. Students first shocked themselves in the ankle and rated how unpleasant that was. They were asked to imagine being given \$5 and to specify how much they would pay to avoid another shock, or to receive one. Then they were told that if they wanted to, they could shock themselves again during their time alone, which ran 15 minutes.

Of the 55 participants, 42 said

they would pay to avoid feeling the shock again. But once they were left alone, even some of those volunteers chose to shock themselves anyway — 12 of 18 men and six of 24 women.

Wilson was surprised by the overall results. When the experimenters began the study, "it seemed that it shouldn't be that hard for people to use [their brains] to entertain themselves," he said. "All of us have pleasant memories we can call upon, we can construct stories and fantasies."

Maybe the problem is that while pleasant thoughts pop up naturally while we're doing something like driving or exercising, it's hard to activate them on demand, he said.

"I think it's an issue of mental control," he said. "The mind is built to engage in the world, and when you give it nothing to engage it, it's hard to keep one train of thought going for very long."

In any case, the result is probably not a consequence of modern-day life.

Wilson said, because even in medieval and ancient Roman times, there were complaints that people didn't take enough time to contemplate.

Jonathan Schooler, a psychologist at the University of California, Santa Barbara, who didn't participate in the work, said he found the results "surprising and in some ways a disappointing statement about human nature."

Most people have interesting things to think about "so I don't understand why they find themselves such bad company," Schooler said.

"This is innovative new research, which means it's the beginning of our understanding of this phenomenon, and not the end," Schooler said.

"I think it's an issue of mental control. The mind is built to engage in the world, and when you give it nothing to engage it, it's hard to keep one train of thought going for very long."

Timothy Wilson
psychologist



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

3 charged in theft of used cooking oil

IL BELLEVILLE — Three men have been charged with felonies in southwest Illinois for what police said was the theft of 10,000 gallons of used cooking oil.

Bo Lin, 32, of Fairview Heights; Tuo Li, 25, of Chicago; and Kenty Wong, 30, of Flushing, N.Y., have been charged with felony theft after their arrests on July 16 in a barn where the cooking oil was found.

Police believe the cooking oil was being taken from outside restaurants to sell to biodiesel plants.

Officials report plague infections in animals

NM SANTA FE — State officials are reporting continued plague infections in animals in Albuquerque's east mountain area.

The Departments of Health and Game and Fish said the latest cases include a mountain lion and a raccoon-like mammal called a coati at the Wildlife West Nature Park in Edgewood. Both died from plague complications in recent weeks.

The departments said steps being taken include decreasing the park's wild rodent population, dusting rodent burrows with insecticides to kill fleas and posting signs to warn people to stay on designated trails.

Tot crashes Jeep, runs home to watch cartoons

OR MYRTLE CREEK — Police said a toddler crashed a Jeep into an Oregon home, then ran back to his home to watch cartoons.

Authorities said the 3-year-old boy who was wearing only a diaper climbed into the Jeep on Tuesday evening and knocked it out of gear. Witnesses said it rolled down the street, through an intersection and into the house, causing minor damage.

KPTV reported an officer found the boy on a couch watching TV as if nothing had happened.

He said his parents weren't home and another relative was sleeping. Police cited Brennan Pennington, 22, for failing to supervise a child.

Man fatally shoots bear in attack near home

AK ANCHORAGE — Alaska wildlife officials said a man fatally shot a bear as it was attacking him.

ATU reported the Eagle River man was walking along a private road near his home when his dogs took off before running back with the female brown bear and a cub on their heels. The bear bit the man's arm and hand, but he drew his gun and fired three rounds.

Chugach State Park Ranger Tom Crockett said the man's injuries were minor. He was driven to a hospital by his wife.

The mauling was the second last week in the area. An Alaska Army National Guard soldier suffered non-life-threatening in-



MICHAEL LOPEZ, WALLA WALLA (WASH.) UNION-BULLETIN/AP

In the loop

Lt. Col. John Klatt, of the Air National Guard, performs an upside-down loop over the Tri-Cities area near Walla Walla, Wash., in his two-passenger Extra 300 as Mike Ganor trails closely behind. Klatt is one of the top aerobatic pilots in the world and a veteran of three combat deployments flying F-16 "Fighting Falcons" in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

juries when he was attacked by a bear while participating in a training exercise at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

Couple sentenced for effort to cure son's fear

PA GREENSBURG — A Pennsylvania couple charged with locking their 5-year-old son in the trunk of their moving car — to cure his fear of darkness — will spend two years on probation in a program for first-time offenders.

The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review reported that Jeffrey and Danielle Lenhart, both 26, of Latrobe, entered the program Thursday in Westmoreland County. The Lenharts weren't required to plead guilty to endangerment charges and can ask the court to expunge their arrest records if they complete probation without incident.

Police said the couple gave their son a flashlight and told him to look for candy in the trunk during three trips to an amusement park about 10 miles from their home last July.

Defense attorney Brian Aston says, "Things aren't as they were described in the police report" calling the incidents "more of a game."

Police: Dolls were meant to spread cheer

CA LOS ANGELES — A Southern California woman told investigators she was embarrassed that her well-intentioned act of leaving porcelain dolls outside girls' homes scared a quiet San Clemente community, a sheriff's official said.

Over a week's time, the woman discreetly dropped off eight to 10 dolls on residents' door steps — each them bearing a resemblance to a little girl living in the home. The ornate dolls, left without any written message, unnerved residents.

"Because her intentions were good, she felt embarrassed at the fear she instilled in the community," said Orange County Sheriff's Lt. Jeff Hallock. "She just thought she was being nice."

Because the woman's children had outgrown playing with dolls, she elected to give them away, Hallock said.

Naked thieves take burgers from eatery

FL BONITA SPRINGS — Police have released surveillance video of a trio of naked thieves stealing 60 hamburgers from an eatery in south-

west Florida.

Police said the men — two entirely naked and one in his underwear — broke in early July 20 and left a trail of red peppers on the beach.

Lou Bangert, general manager of Doc's Beach House in Bonita Beach told the News-Press of Fort Myers that he's never witnessed such a crime in the restaurant's 27-year history.

Judge rejects claim of Earhart discovery

WY CASPER — A federal judge on Friday dismissed a Wyoming man's claims that an aircraft recovery group secretly found wreckage of aviation pioneer Amelia Earhart's missing airplane in the South Pacific but kept it quiet so it could continue raising funds for the search.

District Judge Scott Skavdahl dismissed the lawsuit that Timothy Mellon filed last year against the Pennsylvania-based International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery and its executive director, Richard E. Gillespie.

Mellon claimed the group found Earhart's Lockheed Electra in 2010 but kept it secret to collect \$1 million from him for the search. He is the son of the late philanthropist Paul Mellon.

From wire reports

THE CENSUS



\$1M The amount of a gift from a St. Mary's University alumni couple to the school to build a pub.

Tom and Leti Contreras met at the small San Antonio liberal arts college in the 1980s at an on-campus spot known as The Pub. It closed shortly thereafter. Tom Contreras said he wants St. Mary's to "go another level" and attract quality students. He said the college needs to bring back a community atmosphere. Preliminary plans call for a 1,200-square-foot bar with TVs and a stage for live music. The new pub is scheduled to open next year.

FACES



Getty Images for Disney

Actor Dane Cook attended the world premiere of Disney's animated flick "Planes: Fire & Rescue" at the El Capitan Theatre in Hollywood, Calif., on July 15. Voicing the character of Dusty has expanded his fan base. "That's something I've been aspiring to for a long time — something to connect with the next generation," he says. "Being a part of something that's so beautiful, thoughtful, fun is great."

By RICK BENTLEY
The Fresno Bee

It's only noon, but it's already been a busy day for Dane Cook. After flying into Fresno, Calif., he drove the two hours to Yosemite National Park to do interviews for "Planes: Fire & Rescue" in the shadow of mountains and trees.

"This is my second trip to Yosemite," a muscular Cook says. "I came her eight years ago for a wedding, but it was at night. This is my first time being here in the day. I'm hoping to get to see more of the park this time."

Cook just wrapped work on a feature film where he plays an astronaut, which explains his ripped muscles. He jokes that he didn't think it was right that the character looked like he had been doing nothing but sitting around eating.

Looks didn't matter for the latest animated effort from Disney. Cook reprises his role as the voice of crop duster-turned-racing plane, Dusty, for the summer sequel. This time, the plane has gone from burning up aerial shows to fighting forest fires.

Working on the sequel was a little more physical than the 2013 "Planes." In the original film, much of the movie was completed when Cook was brought in to add the voice. Because he was with the sequel from its takeoff, Cook was filmed while delivering

his lines and those images were used by the animators.

"I felt like right from the get-go there was more of my essence in the character. The animators picked up on certain moves I do. It's an incredible process to see that happen," Cook says.

Those expressions are important because Dusty has gone through some major emotional and personal changes since Cook first voiced the character. This time, Dusty has more maturity as he makes a serious life change. Instead of it being about his own aspiration, the sequel has Dusty looking more at what he can do for the community.

"There's a lot of growth in the character. The humility he's learning was particularly appealing to me and where I found a lot of change in inflections and the nuance of the voice," Cook says. "The first film was charming and very sweet, but this film looks at more serious issues like Dusty's health."

"That's what I love about Disney animation, they allow characters to grow."

It's not only Dusty that's seen growth since the original movie. Cook has always been aware of the power of words, but that awareness got cranked up when he stepped into the recording studio. He now works even harder to use all of the vocal tools in his arsenal to evoke emotion. Cook calls voice work an effort to find "the emotional musicality" of de-

livering the words.

The animated film is just a part of the busy schedule Cook keeps as an actor, writer and comedian. He likes doing all three because they challenge him in different ways.

"Stand-up is so personal. I love the fear and connecting with a group of people," he says. "When I'm on a film set, I feel like it's such a different element because you are a piece of somebody else's vision. It's a collaborative effort to get to what the director's vision is. I get just as much pleasure whether I'm doing theater, film work or voice work. When comes to the voice work, I want the animators to think they have too many options."

Just like Dusty, Cook loves the direction his career's taking him. He's thought about what it would be like to have to select a new life path. He's decided he would go back to his roots and look to work in the art world.

He's happy that's only a what if question because the comedy world touches him every day. When Cook is on tour, he will sign every autograph or listen to every story from fans because he knows without them there would be no stand-up, acting or voice-over career.

And, voicing Dusty has expanded his fan base to a much younger audience. "That's something I've been aspiring to for a long time — something to connect with the next generation," Cook says. "Being a part of something that's so beautiful, thoughtful, fun is great."

Baldwin, LaBeouf appear in NYC courts

The Associated Press

Alec Baldwin and Shia LaBeouf never ended up sharing a Broadway stage as planned last year, but real-life dramatics landed both of them July 24 in a distinctly less celebrated venue: Manhattan criminal courts.

Both stars appeared in courtrooms a few blocks apart for separate disorderly conduct cases. LaBeouf is charged with disrupting a Broadway performance, while Baldwin was accused of getting belligerent with police who said they stopped him for riding a bicycle the wrong way down a one-way street.

Their shared court date was just a coincidence, but it paired stars who have become known for acting up, not just for acting.

"Looks like you have a short fuse," Manhattan Criminal Court Judge John DeLury told Baldwin while looking over the allegations against him; they're violations, not crimes. After Baldwin repeatedly said he'd pay a fine for the May 13 encounter — though the judge said he was just asking for an apology — DeLury put the case on track to be dismissed if the actor avoids re-arrest for six months. It's a common outcome for low-level cases in Manhattan.

"Can you stay out of trouble, Alexander?" DeLury asked.

"Sure, sure," Baldwin said.

"Be a good boy from now on. Have a good day!"

Meanwhile, LaBeouf's lawyer and prosecutors said they were trying to resolve his case.

He's accused in court papers of playing a boorish role in the audience at "Cabaret" last month, smoking cigarettes, yelling at the actors on stage, and swearing at security guards and hollering as he was escorted out: "Do you know who I am?"

The actor, whose publicist has said the episode stemmed from an alcohol problem and that LaBeouf has since gotten treatment, stood solemnly before a judge during the brief appearance.

He and his lawyer, G. Robert Gage, declined to comment as they left court amid a swarm of cameras and microphones.

LaBeouf is due back in court in September.

LaBeouf, 28, and Baldwin, 56, were slated to co-star last year in a revival of Lyle Kessler's play "Orphans," but LaBeouf pulled out over creative disagreements — and then publicly tweeted private emails from Baldwin and others involved in the show.



Baldwin



LaBeouf

Will Ferrell and Adam McKay to go wild with 'Manimal' movie

By OLIVER GETTELL
Los Angeles Times

Will Ferrell and Adam McKay are set to transform the 1980s cult TV show "Manimal" into a big-screen action-comedy.

According to a Deadline report, Ferrell and McKay have been enlisted by Sony Pictures Animation to produce its hybrid live-action/animated movie based on the short-lived series about a handsome doctor who has the ability to morph into any animal he chooses

and who uses his powers to fight crime.

Released by NBC in 1983, "Manimal" was immediately skewered for its cheesy effects and campy vibe — and the fact that the good doctor rarely turned into anything other than a panther or hawk. It was canceled after just eight episodes. Somehow, though, the show managed to wedge itself in a corner of pop-culture consciousness.

McKay and Ferrell, whose many collaborations include skewering "The Tonight Show" (the "Brothers") and "Talladega Nights: The Ballad

of Ricky Bobby," excel at creating over-the-top caricatures and turning them loose, so the high concept of "Manimal" should give them ample fodder.

"I think it's right down our alley," McKay told Deadline.

He also quipped, "Like 'The Catcher in the Rye' or 'The Sound and the Fury,' 'Manimal' has always been one of those elusive projects every producer dreams of taking to the silver screen."

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Investors shrugging off global tensions

By STEVE ROTHWELL
The Associated Press

A war breaks out between Israel and Hamas. An airliner is shot out of the sky in Ukraine. A Portuguese bank's finances look shaky.

And the U.S. stock market's response? After dipping briefly on the bad news, it climbs higher.

The market's resilience this year — which has pushed it to a series of records and extended its five-year bull run — is driven by investors' optimism over the growth of the U.S. economy and record corporate earnings. That helped the market overcome its latest dip, on July 17, when a passenger jet was shot down in eastern Ukraine and Israel invaded the Gaza Strip, raising investor worries that conflicts around the world could escalate and destabilize financial markets.

As they have all year, investors responded by using it as an opportunity to buy stocks. In fact, they've "bought on the dip" consistently for three years, keeping the market's slips from becoming slides.

Stock pullbacks since 2011 have been rare and relatively small, and none has become severe enough to qualify as a correction — Wall Street parameter for a fall of 10 percent or more from a peak.



RICHARD DREW/AP

Trader Benedict Willis works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

The lack of a correction for such a long period is unusual, because the Standard & Poor's 500 index experiences such a decline on average every 18 months, according to S&P Capital IQ research.

Many investors say that the uninterrupted rally is justified by the outlook for stocks. Central banks worldwide have policies in place aimed at stimulating economic growth, and U.S. corporate profits continue to rise even in the first quarter, when the economy contracted.

That has driven the S&P 500 up 7 percent

this year, not including reinvested dividends. That's on top of a 3.0 percent surge in 2013. The index closed Friday down 0.5 percent at 1,978.34, after closing at a record 1,987.98 a day earlier.

"The fundamental underpinnings of this bull market remain very much intact," said Katie Nixon, chief investment officer for wealth management at Northern Trust.

In the U.S., the Federal Reserve has held short-term interest rates at close to zero for almost five years and has bought \$3 trillion of bonds to hold down long-term rates. The Fed has been winding down its stimulus, but a rate increase isn't expected until at least 2015.

The European Central Bank in June introduced a raft of unusual measures meant to revive the eurozone economy by getting credit flowing to companies. Japan's central bank is also trying to stimulate that nation's economy.

The stock market could suffer a sharp, but short, correction later this year once the Fed finishes withdrawing its stimulus and investors start to focus on when exactly the central bank will begin raising interest rates next year, said Robert Fildyk, chief market strategist at Banyan Partners. "The market is going to focus, more and more on when the Fed moves that. That's the biggest chance for a correction to come at us," he said.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (July 28)	\$1.3810
Dollar buys (July 28)	€0.7241
British pound (July 28)	£1.74
Japanese yen (July 28)	¥99.00
South Korean won (July 28)	₩1,003.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	1.6977
Canada (dollar)	1.0815
China (Yuan)	6.1922
Denmark (Krone)	6.5512
Egypt (Pound)	7.1502
Euro	1.3433/3.7444
Hong Kong (dollar)	7.7500
Hungary (Forint)	292.71
Israel (Sheqel)	3.4215
Japan (Yen)	101.80
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2828
Norway (Krone)	6.2214
Philippines (Peso)	43.31
Poland (Zloty)	3.09
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7506
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2416
South Korea (Won)	1,027.57
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9048
Taiwan (Dollar)	31.85
Turkey (Lira)	0.2944

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	7.75
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.03
30-year bond	3.24

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Monday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Ablene, Texas	95	75	PCldy	Chatanooga	84	72	PCldy	Fort Wayne	73	61	PCldy	Louisville	80	67	PCldy	Pocatello	83	56	PCldy	Sioux City	78	57	PCldy
Akron, Ohio	69	62	Rain	Chattanooga	82	54	PCldy	Fresno	103	75	PCldy	Lubbock	88	72	PCldy	Portland, Maine	76	64	Rain	Sioux Falls	76	55	PCldy
Albany, N.Y.	77	69	Rain	Chicago	73	62	PCldy	Goodland	81	62	PCldy	Macon	93	77	PCldy	Portland, Ore.	82	62	PCldy	South Bend	71	61	PCldy
Albuquerque	87	67	PCldy	Cincinnati	73	63	Rain	Grand Junction	91	64	Cldy	Madison	73	56	PCldy	Providence	80	70	Cldy	Spartanburg	86	64	Cldy
Allentown, Pa.	81	66	Cldy	Cleveland	69	63	PCldy	Grand Rapids	71	60	PCldy	Memphis	103	67	PCldy	Pueblo	82	62	Cldy	Springfield, Ill.	76	61	PCldy
Amarillo	82	64	Cldy	Colorado Springs	79	59	Cldy	Great Falls	88	57	PCldy	Rapid City	82	74	PCldy	Springfield, Mo.	82	62	Cldy	Springfield, Mo.	82	62	Cldy
Anchorage	64	52	PCldy	Columbia, S.C.	97	79	PCldy	Green Bay	89	73	PCldy	Reno	91	69	Cldy	Tallahassee	96	77	PCldy	Tampa	92	79	PCldy
Asheville	82	68	PCldy	Columbus, Ga.	92	76	Rain	Greensboro, N.C.	89	72	PCldy	Richmond	90	79	PCldy	Tallahassee	96	77	PCldy	Toledo	73	61	PCldy
Atlanta	87	76	PCldy	Concord, N.H.	73	64	Rain	Hartford	81	70	Cldy	Rochester	88	76	PCldy	Tampa	92	79	PCldy	Tokyo	84	61	Cldy
Atlantic City	87	71	Cldy	Corpus Christi	96	77	Cldy	Helena	92	58	PCldy	Rockford	74	58	Cldy	Tokyo	84	61	Cldy	Tucson	87	67	PCldy
Austin	91	73	PCldy	Dallas-Ft. Worth	95	79	Cldy	Honolulu	88	77	Cldy	Rapid City	82	55	PCldy	Tucson	87	67	PCldy	Tulsa	89	70	PCldy
Baltimore	84	71	PCldy	Dayton	72	62	Rain	Houston	95	76	PCldy	San Francisco	86	71	PCldy	Tulsa	89	70	PCldy	Tulsa	89	70	PCldy
Baton Rouge	92	74	PCldy	Daytona Beach	94	77	PCldy	Huntsville	89	72	PCldy	Nashville	85	69	PCldy	Tulsa	89	70	PCldy	Tulsa	89	70	PCldy
Bilings	88	59	PCldy	Denver	86	59	Cldy	Indianapolis	76	63	Cldy	New Orleans	91	78	PCldy	Tulsa	89	70	PCldy	Tulsa	89	70	PCldy
Birmingham	90	75	PCldy	Des Moines	78	62	PCldy	Jacksonville	95	76	PCldy	New York City	83	72	Cldy	Tulsa	89	70	PCldy	Tulsa	89	70	PCldy
Bismarck	78	52	Cldy	Detroit	71	63	Cldy	Jacksonville	95	76	PCldy	Newark	86	72	Cldy	Tulsa	89	70	PCldy	Tulsa	89	70	PCldy
Boise	98	69	Cldy	Duluth	75	54	Cldy	Juneau	83	49	Rain	Norfolk, Va.	88	76	Cldy	Tulsa	89	70	PCldy	Tulsa	89	70	PCldy
Boston	80	70	Rain	El Paso	98	79	Cldy	Kansas City	80	62	Cldy	North Platte	83	55	Cldy	Tulsa	89	70	PCldy	Tulsa	89	70	PCldy
Bridgeport	81	53	Cldy	Elkins	68	58	Rain	Key West	91	62	Cldy	Okla. City	84	58	PCldy	Tulsa	89	70	PCldy	Tulsa	89	70	PCldy
Brownsville	95	78	Cldy	erie	69	64	Rain	Knoxville	80	70	PCldy	Omaha	79	59	PCldy	Tulsa	89	70	PCldy	Tulsa	89	70	PCldy
Buffalo	68	63	Cldy	Eugene	93	56	Cldy	Lake Charles	94	77	PCldy	Orlando	96	76	PCldy	Tulsa	89	70	PCldy	Tulsa	89	70	PCldy
Burlington, Vt.	74	65	Rain	Evansville	80	63	Cldy	Lansing	70	60	Cldy	Padsuah	83	64	Cldy	Tulsa	89	70	PCldy	Tulsa	89	70	PCldy
Caribou, Maine	71	64	Rain	Fairbanks	66	45	Cldy	Las Vegas	101	86	PCldy	Pendleton	99	62	Cldy	Tulsa	89	70	PCldy	Tulsa	89	70	PCldy
Casper	91	53	Cldy	Fargo	77	55	Cldy	Lexington	78	65	PCldy	Perth	75	60	PCldy	Tulsa	89	70	PCldy	Tulsa	89	70	PCldy
Charleston, S.C.	97	79	PCldy	Flagstaff	79	57	Cldy	Lincoln	81	59	PCldy	Philadelphia	85	71	Cldy	Tulsa	89	70	PCldy	Tulsa	89	70	PCldy
Charleston, W.V.	76	64	Rain	Flint	68	60	Cldy	Little Rock	89	72	PCldy	Phoenix	105	89	PCldy	Tulsa	89	70	PCldy	Tulsa	89	70	PCldy
Charlotte, N.C.	91	75	PCldy	Fort Smith	89	73	PCldy	Los Angeles	84	68	PCldy	Pittsburgh	70	62	Rain	Tulsa	89	70	PCldy	Tulsa	89	70	PCldy

National temperature extremes

Hi: Sat, 120, Death Valley, Calif.

National temperature extremes
Hi: Sat., 120, Death Valley, Calif.
Lo: Sat., 29, Stanley, Idaho

Stripes

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The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market



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OPINION

Help my nation face the Russian threat

BY PETRO POROSHENKO

When 298 innocent people were shot out of the sky by a Russian missile 11 days ago, people everywhere finally began to understand what is at stake in Ukraine.

Half a year ago, I was not even considering becoming president of Ukraine. But like a great many Ukrainians at the time, I was disturbed that then-President Viktor Yanukovich constrained Ukraine's future by rejecting an association agreement with the European Union, choosing a customs union with Moscow instead. Like so many of my countrymen, I believed that for Ukraine to become a modern and successful country, it needed to expand its ties with the West and end widespread corruption and abuses of power. Then, the authorities unleashed a murderous assault on demonstrators in Kiev, and Yanukovich and his partners fled to Russia, leading to Moscow's decision to annex Crimea and support the violent separatists operating in eastern Ukraine.

Russia's behavior has only worsened since I took office in June. Over the past several weeks, Ukraine has faced risk to sian aggression and continues the fight against the Moscow-backed separatists. Russia has tested us with its transfer of cash, weapons and other equipment to the separatists and its vast anti-Western, anti-Kiev propaganda campaign, but we will not yield to its interference in Ukraine's sovereignty or to the violence perpetuated by terrorists.

Moscow is playing a dangerously irre-

sponsible game. My fears of the violence spiraling out of control were confirmed July 17, when the separatists used Russian missiles to shoot down Malaysia Airlines Flight 17. This attack on innocents should never have happened. Like giving a handgun to a child, Moscow permitted the transfer of a highly sophisticated surface-to-air missile system to terrorists. With such a large number of lives lost — many of them children — this was a major tragedy. Adding to the horror has been the casual desecration of the crash site by the separatists, who have blocked access by investigators, tampered with evidence, looted belongings and treated the dead like foil.

As president, I have laid the groundwork for peace talks with the separatists by calling for dialogue along with guarantees of the rights of all Ukrainians. But these calls have been rejected, and Moscow continues to fan the conflict. It has always been my goal to bring together the parties and work out solutions for all Ukrainians regardless of geography, ethnicity or language.

To help achieve these solutions, the West should begin thinking about a larger response to what has happened. As always, the United States should take the lead. Working together with the European Union, Washington can shape a worldwide coalition of nations in support of Ukraine to ensure that these terrorists are not able to strike again.

It is important that the United States has instituted stronger sanctions in response to Russia's aggression in my country. However, in light of this tragedy, the United States should consider imposing even tougher and

wider-reaching sectoral sanctions on Moscow. And Europe needs to follow the lead of the United States and impose sectoral sanctions of its own.

Russia needs to know that the international community is serious. It is long past time for it to act.

In addition to broader sanctions, my country needs expedited deliveries of assistance to help us police our borders and unwind the insurgency with minimal violence.

Even as we address the immediate threat to our country, Ukraine must attend to other pressing needs. Ukraine can use U.S. leadership and assistance in our efforts to curtail corruption, revive our financial institutions, reform our energy policy and liberalize our agricultural sector. Additionally, we need U.S. natural gas to shore up our energy supplies so that we cannot be blackmailed by Moscow. We need a reliable partner and ally to help fuel our nation.

Now is the time for the international community to stand with Ukraine. To stop Russia, it must take the global community acting in concert. My country is doing everything it can to take charge of our destiny: We are working hard to curb corruption, implement much-needed reforms and, above all, restore the Ukrainian people's faith in their government. Working together, we will not allow Moscow to stand in the way of creating a new open, united and prosperous Ukraine.

Petro Poroshenko is president of Ukraine. This column first appeared in the Washington Post.

Extend visas to our Iraqi and Afghan allies

BY RYAN CROCKER

During the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, thousands of brave citizens of both countries assisted our troops at great risk to themselves and their families. Many were killed because they stood with us. Many more faced serious threats. Now we have a moral obligation to stand with them by ensuring that those who need it have the opportunity to live safely and securely in their home countries, a country they served at considerable risk even though it was not their own.

This is a matter of deep personal concern to me. When I became ambassador to Iraq in 2007, we had no special immigrant visa (SIV) program for our employees, and only a tiny number of those who served with us were being admitted into the United States as refugees. When I left two years later, a congressionally authorized SIV program was up and running, and more than 17,000 Iraqi refugees had entered the United States the previous year. I launched a similar effort after I became ambassador to Afghanistan in 2011.

As Secretary of State John Kerry noted last month in an op-ed for the Los Angeles Times, the Afghan SIV program suffered its share of bureaucratic problems and delays. Kerry ordered an overhaul of the process, and the results were dramatic: since October, nearly 5,000 Afghan refugees have received visas, compared with roughly 1,600 in the previous year. Sadly, however, the Iraq SIV process has gone in the opposite direction. Although more than 15,000

visas have been issued in all, the flow has slowed to a trickle. George Packer reported in the New Yorker that 507 Iraqis arrived in the United States on SIVs in October. In June, the number was just 53. More than 1,600 Iraqis are waiting, and the program expires in September. Although Congress has mandated that SIV applications be processed within nine months, the actual wait can be more than twice that, Packer reported.

In Afghanistan, a new SIV crisis has arisen. About 6,000 applicants are in the pipeline, but Congress has set a limit of 3,000 visas for 2014, a cap the State Department will reach this month. New legislation is needed immediately to extend the program and provide additional admissions.

In a time of intense political acrimony, I am pleased that this issue is gathering bipartisan support. Sens. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., recently introduced legislation to provide 1,000 additional visas this year, and Rep. Eric Blumenauer, D-Ore., is spearheading a similar effort in the House. But time is of the essence. In a sense, the State Department has been a victim of its own success in working its way to a more effective system.

The department badly needs to improve its game in Iraq as well. Arguably, those who have worked with us have never been in greater danger than they are now, with the Islamic State, a far more lethal organization than al-Qaida, controlling large areas of the country and radical Shiite militias emerging elsewhere. Just as they are

most needed, SIV operations in Baghdad have ground to a virtual halt. Processing SIVs must be a top priority in Baghdad and Washington, and the personnel and resources needed to expedite issuances must be made available now. This is literally a life-or-death issue. And since extensive backlogs cannot be cleared by September no matter how much effort is made, Congress must extend the Iraq program, too.

Taking care of those who took care of us does not mean doing them a favor. It means acting on fundamental American values. Afghans and Iraqis risked their lives to support our efforts, and all too many gave their lives. A searing memory of my time in Baghdad is the kidnapping and brutal murder of two Iraqi employees of the embassy, a husband and wife. They died because they worked for us.

Wars don't end just because we bring our troops home. They don't end for enemies who may gain ground, and they don't end for friends who may face risks precisely because they were our friends. We must do everything possible to bring our friends in Iraq and Afghanistan to safety.

This will require swift action by Congress and the Obama administration. Anything less would not be just a betrayal of those who served us with courage and dedication. It would be a betrayal of who we are and what we stand for as Americans.

Ryan Crocker, a former ambassador to Afghanistan and Iraq, is dean of the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University. This column first appeared in the Washington Post.

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Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



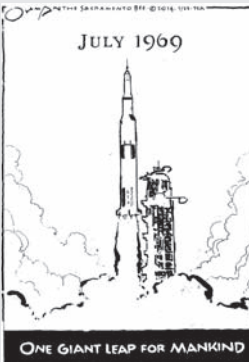
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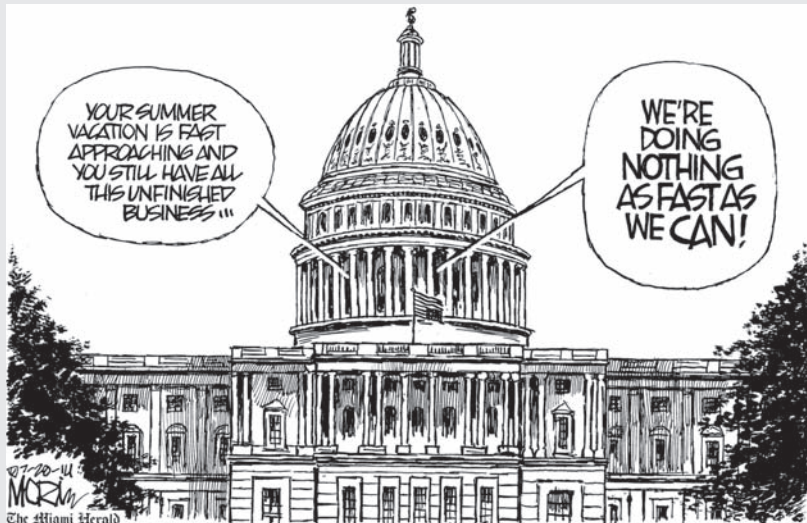
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AUTO RACING



DARRON CUMMINGS/AP

Ty Dillon celebrates after winning the Nationwide race at Indianapolis Motor Speedway on Saturday.

Dillon's first win worth a kiss

By DAN GELSTON
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — For a first-time winner, Ty Dillon had the Brickyard's winning tradition down as cold as the celebratory beer he chugged outside his car.

"We get to kiss the bricks, baby!" he radioed as he crossed the finish line.

Dillon parked his car on the famed yard of bricks and raised his arms toward the sky in triumph. His No. 3 car wasn't going to budge from the bricks without a push — it was out of gas.

Dillon was the latest driver to kiss the bricks after he pulled away from Kyle Busch on Saturday at Indianapolis Motor Speedway to win for the first time in the Nationwide Series. Dillon made this celebration a family affair. Team owner and grandfather Richard Childress and Sprint Cup driver and brother Austin Dillon joined the winner for the big smooch of the bricks.

Dillon got there by holding off the dominant driver in the series. Dillon passed Busch off the final restart with 25 laps and held on for his first victory in 31 career starts in NASCAR's second-tier series.

"We got out front, man, she unleashed and it was awesome," Dillon said.

Busch, who has three wins and 13 top-five finishes in 14 races this season, made a hard charge in the

final three laps but failed in a bid to win at the Brickyard for the second straight year. Matt Kenseth was third, followed by Kevin Harvick and Joey Logano.

"When you've got the best guy in the business behind you, it's tough," Dillon said. "It's tough to stay focused and not give up. I've raced against Brad [Keselowski] and Kyle a lot, those guys are the best in the business."

No one was better than Dillon at the Brickyard.

"I was praying," Childress said. "He's had a tough year this year, he's had some close runs, but to come here and race at Indy and race with the guys he's raced with, it was a great day for RCR and Ty Dillon."

Dillon had his first top-five finish in 18 races last weekend at Chicagoland Speedway. Driving the No. 3 Austin piloted to the Nationwide title last season, Dillon turned his season around.

Dillon's inexperience has hurt him more than once this season. But he was nearly flawless in holding off the Sprint Cup regulars who dropped down for Saturday's race.

"Growing up, as a young boy, you always want to come to Indy and win, and we've done it today," crew chief Danny Stockman said. "These guys have been working their tails off, I wouldn't be afraid to see that we might get on a roll here."

Chase Elliott finished 12th and holds a four-point lead over Regan Smith in the standings.

Fresh tires key to Ricciardo's F1 win

By PABLO GORONDI
The Associated Press

BUDAPEST, Hungary — Daniel Ricciardo of Red Bull overtook Ferrari's Fernando Alonso near the end of the race to win a thrilling Hungarian Grand Prix on Sunday, his second Formula One victory of the season and his career.

Lewis Hamilton, who started from pit lane after his engine caught on fire during qualifying, was third, holding off Mercedes teammate Nico Rosberg, who started from pole position.

Ricciardo, an Australian competing in his fourth Formula One season, made three pits stops — compared to just two for Alonso and Hamilton — and his never set of tires paid off in the end as he surged past the leaders with three laps to go.

"We had the fresher tires, but I knew it was going to be an exciting finish," Ricciardo said. "That was

a lot of fun, the last few laps.

"I am definitely going to celebrate tonight, party for a few days and enjoy a few days off," he added.

Ricciardo won his first F1 race at the Canadian Grand Prix in Montreal in June.

Rosberg still leads the championship with 202 points, followed by Hamilton with 191 and Ricciardo with 131.

Mercedes told Hamilton to let Rosberg pass him as the race was winding down, but Hamilton said he saw no reason to obey team orders considering his good position at the time.

"I was very, very shocked that the team would ask me to do that," Hamilton said. Rosberg "did get close enough to overtake but I was never going to lift off and lose ground to Fernando or Daniel to enable him to have a good race."

"That was a bit strange," he added.

Roush confirms Edwards leaving

Driver, sixth in Cup standings with two wins this year, said to be headed to Gibbs Racing

By JENNA FRYER
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Carl Edwards' 11-year run with Roush Fenway Racing will end after this NASCAR season.

The confirmation by Roush officials Sunday that Edwards will not be back in the No. 99 Ford had been long rumored, but not substantiated because Edwards refuses to publicly discuss contract negotiations. He's believed to be headed to Joe Gibbs Racing in a new fourth car, but contract with Roush does not permit him to announce his plans until September.

Matt Kenseth was bound by the same clause when he decided to leave Roush at the end of 2012, but had to wait months to announce he was moving to Gibbs.

New Edwards and Kenseth will be reunited with a Toyota team, which will end Edwards' long association with Ford. The manufacturer stepped up heavily in contract negotiations four years ago to offer incentives to keep Edwards from leaving Roush for Gibbs.

It worked, but Edwards' results have not been anywhere close to what he had hoped after losing the 2011 championship on a tie-breaker to Tony Stewart.

Edwards went winless in 2012, his first year of a new three-year contract extension with Roush, and missed the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship. Although he won two races last season, he finished last in the 13-driver Chase field.

His performance is much better this year and Edwards went into Sunday's race at Indianapolis Motor Speedway ranked sixth in the standings with two victories.

"I will always be thankful for Carl's contribution and the role he played in many Roush Fenway wins and championships," Roush said. "We wish him well for the future. In the meantime, we are excited about continuing our quest for a championship with Carl and the No. 99 team in 2014."

Edwards has been with Roush since 2003 and in the No. 99 Ford

in the Cup Series since 2004. He has 67 career victories in NASCAR's three national series.

In addressing Edwards' departure, Roush revealed its three-driver 2015 lineup. Greg Biffle and Ricky Stenhouse Jr. will both return, and Trevor Bayne will move up from the Nationwide Series to a full-time Sprint Cup Series ride.

"I have had the privilege of fielding entries for the world's best race car drivers in NASCAR for nearly 30 years, and feel quite fortunate to have an opportunity to do that again next year," Roush said. "We have always prided ourselves in developing talent at Roush Fenway, and our 2015 lineup is a testament to the success of our organization in that respect."

Biffle has been with Roush since 1998 and earned the organization its first NASCAR championship with the 2000 Truck Series crown. He added a Nationwide Series title in 2002. He has qualified for the Chase in five of the last six seasons and was a career-best second in 2005.

"I don't have the words for what Jack Roush has meant to my career," Biffle said. "During our 16 years together, we have won multiple championships and numerous races on every level. I am as excited about what the future holds for me here as I am about what we have been able to accomplish in the past."

"Our goal remains to run up front, win races and become the sports' first triple crown winner by having a championship in all three series."

Stenhouse, a two-time Nationwide Series champion, joined Roush Fenway in 2008. He replaced Kenseth in the No. 17 Ford when Kenseth left for Gibbs.

Pastenal, one of the primary sponsors on Edwards' car, will move its funding to Stenhouse next season to remain in the organization.

Roush officials had previously announced that Bayne will be promoted from the Nationwide Series to a full-time Cup ride next year, with AutoCare as his primary sponsor of the No. 6 Ford.

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MLS/SPORTS BRIEFS

Roundup

Bradley blasts refs after loss

The Associated Press

TORONTO — U.S. World Cup player Michael Bradley took dead aim at Major League Soccer and its referees Saturday night after Toronto FC's 2-1 loss to Sporting Kansas City.

"It's by no means an excuse, it was the same for both teams, but the referee was absolutely awful," the Toronto player said. "The people at the MLS office in New York, when they talk about wanting to improve the league, the first thing that needs to be improved is the refereeing, bottom line."

"That shouldn't come across as sour grapes because that's just the reality."

Referee Ted Unkel issued eight yellow cards, including five to Toronto. Kansas City was reduced to 10 men in the 75th minute when captain Matt Besler got a second yellow.

Despite that, substitute Jacob Peterson scored five minutes for defending MLS champions Kansas City.

Foremost on Toronto's list of complaints was a no-call in the 23rd minute when Unkel waved play on after Kansas City defender Aurelien Collin, chasing Brazilian striker Gilberto after a deft through ball from Bradley, appeared to clip the Brazilian's leg.

Gilberto, who had a clear path on goal, went down and Bradley went after the referee imploring for a call, which should have garnered Collin a red card. The French defender went unpunished and Toronto got the first four yellows of the night.

Toronto coach Ryan Nelsen was appalled by the no-call.

"Collin should have been sent off. I mean an under-12 ref can pick that one," Nelsen said. "That's pretty basic."

Nelsen said he was left wondering what was going on with the referee, whose decisions he said had mystified his players.

Kansas City coach Peter Vermes had a different view of the



NATHAN DENETTE, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Toronto FC head coach Ryan Nelsen, right, argues a call with one of the officials during the second half of Saturday's 2-1 loss to Sporting Kansas City in Toronto.

officiating.

"I thought the referee did a good job tonight, that is my personal opinion," Vermes said. "I don't think it was an easy game to ref. I really liked his management of the game."

Crew 2, Revolution 1: Ethan Finlay scored in the 84th minute and Columbus beat host New England to extend the Revolution's losing streak to eight games.

Finlay ran down a long ball from Justin Meram, shrugged off a defender, and hammered a shot into the back of the net.

Federico Higuain opened the scoring for the Crew (6-7-8) in the 43rd minute, bending in a free kick around the wall from 23 yards out.

New England (7-11-2) is one short of the club record for consecutive losses set in 1997-98.



STEW MILNE/AP

Columbus' Federico Higuain celebrates after scoring a goal against the New England Revolution on Saturday in Foxborough, Mass.



JEFF CHAI/AP

Robbie Lawler, top, punches Matt Brown during the fourth round of a welterweight mixed martial arts bout at Saturday's UFC event in San Jose, Calif. Lawler won by unanimous decision.

Briefly

Lawler earns rematch

The Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Robbie Lawler withstood a flurry of stinging punches by Matt Brown in the fifth round and held on for a unanimous decision Saturday night, setting up a rematch with UFC welterweight champion Johny Hendricks.

Lawler (24-10) was never hit very hard until Brown landed four straight punches with just over two minutes remaining. Lawler later absorbed a hard right from the bloodied Brown (21-12) before holding on for his fifth win in the last six fights.

Two judges scored it 49-46 and the third had it 48-47.

That puts Lawler in line for another shot at the welterweight championship. The 32-year-old lost a unanimous decision to Hendricks on May 15 when the two fought for the vacant title.

Hendricks injured an arm and only recently returned, which means the fight will likely happen next year. UFC President Dana White said he already has an idea when the fight will be but declined to disclose the date.

That will give Lawler sufficient time to rest after a grueling past 12 months. His win over Brown came on the heels of wins over Jake Ellenberger, Rory MacDonald and Bobby Voelker, along with the close loss to Hendricks.

Golovkin retains WBA middleweight title

NEW YORK — Gennady Golovkin retained his WBA middleweight championship Saturday night, stopping Daniel Geale at 2:47 of the third round at Madison Square Garden.

Golovkin improved to 30-0 with his 17th straight knockout and 27th overall, giving him a knockout rate of 90 percent — the highest in middleweight history.

The end came with a series of shots in the corner late in the third. After taking a shot from Geale, Golovkin struck with a right hand to the nose and followed with a left hand. That sent Geale to the canvas and referee Michael Ortega stopped the fight.

Dominant Nibali closes out Tour

PARIS — Vincenzo Nibali won the Tour de France on Sunday, becoming the first Italian in 16 years to triumph in cycling's greatest race by chiseling a lead over his main rivals a few seconds at a time and dominating them in the mountains.

The 29-year-old Sicilian, who called himself "a flag-bearer of anti-doping" during the race, finished in the pack behind Marcel Kittel, who won the 21st stage

in a sprint finish.

Nibali's victory comes after the pre-race favorites — 2013 champion Chris Froome and two-time winner Alberto Contador — crashed out with injuries in the first half of this year's Tour.

The last Italian to win the Tour de France was Marco Pantani in 1998.

Nibali also won four stages, a feat not equaled by a Tour winner since Lance Armstrong won five a decade ago.

Jean-Christophe Peraud and third-placed Thibaut Pinot became the first Frenchmen to reach the Tour podium since 1997.

Baseball HOF cuts eligibility to 10 years

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. — Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens, Sammy Sosa and Mark McGwire will have less time to remain eligible for the Hall of Fame ballot under changes made Saturday.

The Hall of Fame's board cut a player's eligibility from 15 years to 10, which gives McGwire a maximum of two more appearances on the writers' ballot. Bonds, Clemens and Sosa, shunned so far along with other Steroids Era stars, can be considered up to eight more times each by the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

MLB

Roundup

Reds stop Nationals behind Cueto's 9 Ks

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Johnny Cueto made one modest run enough to end a long losing streak.

Cueto fanned nine in seven innings on Saturday, and Brayan Pena singled through a drawn-in infield for the only run, leading the Cincinnati Reds to a 1-0 victory over the Washington Nationals that ended a seven-game losing streak.

Cincinnati ended its longest losing streak in five years by getting several good defensive plays and another dominating performance by its All-Star starter. Cueto (11-6) gave up four hits and walked three.

"He always asks for one run," Pena said. "That's what he preaches. He has confidence in himself and believes in what he does. He always gives us a chance to be in the game."

Left-hander Aroldis Chapman pitched out of a two-on, two-out threat in the eighth and finished for his 22nd save in 24 chances. He extended his streak of at least one strikeout in his last 43 appearances, the longest by a reliever in the majors since 1900.

The Reds' offense has been in a deep slump, leading to Cincinnati's worst losing streak coming out of the All-Star break since 1991. They managed only four hits during a 4-1 loss on Friday night. They got four hits again on Saturday, but this time it was enough.

"You've heard me talk about how teams go through stretches like this," manager Bryan Price said. "You hope it's not in September where it takes you out of the race. This one didn't, but I'm sure everybody in this building is feeling a lot better."

Pena's single through the left side of a drawn-in infield in the fifth inning made the difference against left-hander Gio Gonzalez (6-6), who gave up four hits and fanned eight in seven innings.

He has been tough on the Reds throughout his career. He was 2-0 in his previous four starts against Cincinnati with a 1.00 ERA, allowing three earned runs and fanning 32 in 27 innings.

The Reds ended a slump that had dropped them back to .500 for the first time since June 24. Cueto had the most to do with it, holding down a team that hit him hard the last time around. He fanned the side in the third and sixth innings, leaving after throwing his 103rd pitch.

The right-hander had his roughest outing of the season on May 20 in Washington, where he gave up a season-high eight runs in 5½ innings of a 9-4 loss. He didn't feel strong at the outset on Saturday, but got better once he got the run, fanning the next four batters he faced.

"After we took the lead, it was only one run, but Johnny knew it was time to step up," Chris Heisey said. "The next couple of innings, he was throwing 96-97 mph."

Heisey set up Cincinnati's run in the fifth. He led off with a double — only the Reds' second hit off Gonzalez — and stole third base with one out. Pena singled through the hole at shortstop.

Pena also threw out Ian Desmond as he tried to steal second base after a leadoff walk in the ninth.

Two exceptional plays in the Reds' outfield prevented early runs.

Center fielder Billy Hamilton ran down Adam LaRoche's fly with two runners aboard in the first. Right fielder Jay Bruce got to Wilson Ramos' fly to the warning track and doubled Bryce Harper up at first base in the second inning.

Harper got caught in a rundown between second and third base in the seventh inning after trying to take an extra base on Ramos' infield single.



David Kohl/AP

Cincinnati's Johnny Cueto gave up four hits and struck out nine in seven innings to snap the Reds' five-game losing streak in beating the Washington Nationals 1-0 in Cincinnati on Saturday.

Cardinals 6, Cubs 3: Matt Adams drove in four runs, A.J. Pierzynski had three hits in his St. Louis debut and the Cardinals beat host Chicago to stop a four-game skid.

Mariners 4, Orioles 3: Chris Young allowed two hits in seven shutout innings, and host Seattle

snapped a four-game losing streak by holding off Baltimore.

Athletics 5, Rangers 1: Sonny Gray won his sixth straight decision, helped when visiting Oakland hit four home runs in a six-batter span to beat Texas.

Brewers 5, Mets 2: Wily Peralta earned his team-leading 12th

win, and Mark Reynolds homered in host Milwaukee's victory over New York.

Rockies 8, Pirates 1: Nolan Arenado bounced back from a benching with three hits, including a home run, and host Colorado routed Pittsburgh.

Marlins 7, Astros 3: Giancarlo Stanton hit a three-run double, and Jordany Valdespin added a two-run homer to power visiting Miami past Houston.

White Sox 7, Twins 0: Chris Sale tied a season high with 12 strikeouts in eight dominant innings. Alexei Ramirez hit his 10th homer and Chicago defeated host Minnesota for its third straight win over the Twins.

Braves 5, Padres 3: Freddie Freeman had three hits and an RBI, Julio Teheran earned his team-high 10th win and host Atlanta took advantage of Odrisamer Despaigne's control problems to beat San Diego. Tommy La Stella also had three hits and Chris Johnson drove in two runs as the Braves moved within 1½ games of the NL East-leading Washington Nationals.

Royals 7, Indians 5: Billy Butler homered for the second consecutive game and host Kansas City overcame a five-run deficit to beat Cleveland for its fifth straight win.

Diamondbacks 10, Phillies 6 (10): Martin Prado homered, doubled and drove in five runs, including a tiebreaking sacrifice fly in the 10th inning to lift visiting Arizona over Philadelphia. Pinch-hitter Nick Evans' three-run homer capped the Diamondbacks' four-run 10th. Evan Marshall (3-2) pitched a scoreless ninth to earn the win.

Angels 4, Tigers 0: Efran Navarro hit his first major league homer off Justin Verlander and Matt Shoemaker combined with two relievers on a four-hitter as host Los Angeles beat Detroit.

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MLB

Rays shut out Red Sox for 9th straight win

The Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — The resurgent Tampa Bay Rays are on their best run in a decade.

Ben Zobrist homered, Matt Joyce and Kevin Kiermaier each had an RBI single, and the Rays beat the skidding Boston Red Sox 3-0 Saturday night for their ninth consecutive victory.

The stretch is the second-longest in team history, three short of a 12-game streak in June 2004.

"It's really impressive," Tampa Bay manager Joe Maddon said. "It's a total team concept going on right now."

John Lackey (11-7) came up short in his first attempt at his 150th win, giving up three runs and eight hits in seven innings.

Before the game, the Red Sox traded right-hander Jake Peavy and cash to San Francisco for minor league pitchers Edwin Escobar and Heath Hembree. Boston, last in the A.L. East one season after winning the World Series, has lost five straight.

"I have to say it's been a disappointing week. A little surprising even," general manager Ben Cherington said. "Anything we do between now and Thursday afternoon will be with a mind toward building as quickly as possible toward April of 2015."

The non-waiver trade deadline is Thursday.

Zobrist made it 3-0 with his seventh-inning shot. Grant Balfour (1-3) went 1½ innings for the win,

and Jake McGee pitched the ninth for his 11th save.

The Rays (51-53) have used a 27-11 stretch since June 11 to go from also-rans to wild-card contenders.

"It was really nice to get a win, but at the end of the day it's a team win," Balfour said. "Right now that's what we're after. We went through a lot in the first two months, and we're trying to erase all those losses and turn them into wins."

Jeremy Hellickson, coming back from right elbow surgery and making his second start this season, gave up five hits over 4 2-3 innings. Jeff Beliveau replaced Hellickson with a runner on and retired David Ortiz on a hard line to first.

Desmond Jennings had a bunt single in the first inning and advanced to third on catcher Christian Vazquez's errant throw. Boston manager John Farrell argued with plate umpire Chad Fairchild about Jennings' route to first, but the call stood.

"We were told there was no deflection," Farrell said. "The ruling was he didn't interfere with the play."

Jennings scored on Joyce's single.

Kiermaier's run-scoring single in the fourth came right after Yuliel Escobar was almost picked off second base, a close play Farrell decided not to challenge.

"A challenge would have been nice there," Lackey said. "He looked like he was pretty out. They



CHRIS O'MEARA/AP

Tampa Bay Rays' Yuliel Escobar, left, scores in front of Boston Red Sox catcher Christian Vazquez on an RBI single by Kevin Kiermaier in the fourth inning of the Rays' 3-0 win on Saturday in St. Petersburg, Fla.

still might not overturn it, but you never know. We've had it go both ways this year, but what are you going to do?"

Ortiz was given a double in the first after a fan caught his drive near the yellow home run line at the top of the right-field fence. The call stood after a boundary area video review. Ortiz was left

stranded when Mike Napoli struck out.

Brock Holt was thrown out trying to score from second to complete an inning-ending double play in the third after Ortiz was retired on a grounder into shallow right field. The Red Sox also failed to score after putting runners on first and third with none out in

the sixth. Balfour got the final two outs of the inning.

"Consistency, that's been elusive," Farrell said. "The ability to string some base hits together has been elusive."

Boston went 0 for 7 with runners in scoring position and left nine on base in getting shut out for the 11th time this season.

Dodgers blank Giants on Kershaw's 2-hitter

By RICK EYMER
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Clayton Kershaw continued to spoil his manager with another brilliant performance.

Kershaw pitched a two-hitter to win his ninth straight decision, leading the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 5-0 victory over the San Francisco Giants on Saturday night.

"You end up counting on him to go to last six," Dodgers manager Don Mattingly said. "If you don't get to him early, he winds up with a low pitch count. That's when you start to get spooled."

"You don't take for granted being in first place," Kershaw said. "We know those guys will be right there with us to the end. We know we have to win a few more games to stay in first."

Kershaw (12-2) walked one and struck out seven for his second this season. It was also his fourth complete game of the year and 15th of his career. The left-hander improved to 12-2 with a 1.40 ERA

in 23 career games against the Giants, including 7-2 with a 0.69 ERA at AT&T Park.

"It's fun to win," Kershaw said. "I'm happy now but if I lose the next time out I won't be happy. We kept scoring runs and it seems like if I can keep throwing zeroes the first three innings we have a good chance. It's been holding true."

Kershaw has made 15 consecutive quality starts against the Giants, the most by a pitcher since Bob Gibson had 16 straight between 1968-72.

Ryan Vogelsong (5-8) retired the first 11 batters before Hunter Pence lost Gonzalez's double in all with two outs in the fourth. Hanley Ramirez followed with an RBI single.

"Vogey has had some tough luck, whether it's the run support or things going away," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said. "The sun played a part in it tonight and it cost us a run."

"The Giants have been shut out in four of Vogelsong's last five starts and the right-hander has received an average of two runs per game of support at home, the second-lowest in the NL. Vogelsong lost his fifth straight decision.

"I stopped making good pitches is what happened," Vogelsong said. "I can't put a finger on it other



BECK DIEFENBACH/AP

Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Clayton Kershaw picked up his fourth complete game this season on Saturday in a 5-0 win over the San Francisco Giants.

than I missed some spots and they got some hits."

Joaquin Arias was the lone Giants hitter to reach as far as second base against Kershaw and he reached on a fielding error. Michael Morse singled with two outs in the seventh.

Uribe, who has 17 RBIs against his former team since leaving after the 2010 season, drove in runs in the fifth and sixth. Yasiel Puig scored on Dan Uggla's throwing error in the sixth.

Gonzalez, singled home a run in the seventh.

By RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — For nearly two years, the Toronto Blue Jays had walked off the field at Yankee Stadium with losses. Every time.

Dan Johnson's 70-foot infield hit helped the Blue Jays stop their 17-game skid in the Bronx.

Johnson drove in four runs with the seventh-inning single and a three-run homer in the ninth, lifting the Blue Jays over New York 6-4 on Saturday for their first win at Yankee Stadium since Aug. 29, 2012.

"We were trying anything," Johnson said, "just to kind of change the feeling, the mojo here."

Toronto didn't take batting practice before Friday's 6-3 loss or on Saturday. Manager John Gibbons described the losing streak as feeling "Volkswagen tracks" on his neck.

Brian McCann's two-run homer off Drew Hutchison (7-9) put New York ahead, but the Blue Jays tied the score in the fifth against Chris Capuano, who was making his Yankees debut, on Melky Cabrera's RBI double and Steve Tolleson's sacrifice fly.

Toronto went ahead in the seventh when Shawn Kelley (1-3)

walked Cabrera leading off and Jose Bautista doubled him to third.

Dioner Navarro, who had three hits, followed with a grounder to McCann, an All-Star catcher playing first base this week because of Mark Teixeira's strained back. McCann took a step in, checked the runners, but allowed Navarro to get by him and reach on a fielder's choice that loaded the bases.

"It was a such a strange play," Navarro said. "We caught a break right there."

Kelley struck out Tolleson, and Johnson was jammed by left-hander Matt Thornton as the ball blooped to the right side. Second baseman Brian Roberts reacted slowly, and the ball landed on the grass in front of him, with McCann and Thornton not far away. All runners were safe, and Toronto led 3-2.

"When you lose 17 in a row, you deserve something like that," Gibbons said.

Johnson made it 6-2 with a ninth-inning drive off Jeff Francis over the short porch in right, his first homer since hitting three for the Chicago White Sox at Cleveland on Oct. 3, 2012.

Toronto reliever Casey Janssen allowed Carlos Beltran's two-run homer in the ninth.

NFL

Falcons want big improvement up front

By PAUL NEWBERRY
The Associated Press

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. — Through the first two days of training camp, the Atlanta Falcons look just fine along the offensive line.

Of course, let's see how they do when they break out the pads.

"We're out here in pajamas," guard Justin Blalock quipped.

All joking aside, the Falcons must improve up front after a miserable 2013 season, when a team with Super Bowl aspirations staggered to a 4-12 mark. Much of the blame fell on the offensive line after quarterback Matt Ryan was sacked a career-high 44 times and Atlanta ranked last in the league in rushing, despite adding Steven Jackson.

"The message has been real clear from the very beginning: We want to get bigger and stronger," coach Mike Smith said Saturday, after the team wrapped up another non-contact practice on a sweltering afternoon.

Looking to address their most glaring need, the Falcons used the No. 6 overall pick on tackle Jake Matthews, who will move right into the lineup on the right side. The team also added free agent guard Jon Asamoah, another instant starter.

But the process involves more than just a few new faces. The Falcons challenged the holdovers — Blalock, center Joe Hawley and left tackle Sam Baker — to bulk up in the weight room.

Smith likes what he sees so far, yet knows it's far too early to de-



AP Photo

Atlanta offensive linemen Adam Replogle (67) and Mike Johnson work out during training camp on Friday in Flowery Branch, Ga. The Falcons must improve up front after a miserable 2013 season, when a team with Super Bowl aspirations staggered to a 4-12 mark, allowed quarterback Matt Ryan to be sacked a career-high 44 times and ranked last in the NFL in rushing, despite adding running back Steven Jackson.

termine how much better the line will be.

"We have a good idea of how they can process what we're

doing schematically," the coach said. "That doesn't always mean they're the best players. It's a whole lot different when you're in

non-contact practices ... and then going out there and actually playing the game of football with a helmet, shoulder pads, knee pads

and thigh pads."

After reaching the NFC championship game during the 2012 season, the Falcons clearly skimmed on the line, deciding to use much of their salary cap on high-profile offensive stars such as Ryan, Roddy White, Julio Jones, Tony Gonzalez and Jackson. But Jones went down with a season-ending injury, White was banged up much of the year, and the Falcons learned just how valuable it is to have guys who actually block someone once in a while.

The lack of success running the ball was especially frustrating, especially since a hard-nosed ground game was a hallmark of Smith's team when he first came to Atlanta in 2008.

"It's something you take personally," Blalock said. "As an offensive lineman, you pride yourself on running the football. We did that extremely poorly. There's no way around it."

Much of the attention will be on Matthews, a third-generation player whose father is Hall of Famer Bruce Matthews. There will certainly be a learning curve, but the rookie knows he won't get an extended period to show he belongs.

"There's a ton of playmakers on this offense," he said. "My job is just to give them an opportunity to go out there and make plays."

The first practice in full pads is Monday.

Smith can't wait to see how the linemen fare.

"These guys are going to get an opportunity to really play football," the coach said. "It's going to be a really fun day."



CHRIS LEE, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/MCT

St. Louis Rams defensive end Robert Quinn is carried off the field by fellow defensive ends Chris Long, left, and William Hayes after he set the franchise single-season sack record with his 18th sack during the game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers at the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis on Dec. 22, 2013.

Quinn: Rams hope fearsome pass rush equates to victories

FROM BACK PAGE

"His philosophy is to defend every blade of grass," Quinn said. "That's how detailed he wants to be about everything, and I think guys are definitely stepping up to the challenge."

The Rams aspire to top-10 status on defense with a pass rush that was among the leaders with 53 sacks, and has added first-round pick Aaron Donald, a tackle who can pressure the quarterback. They're getting respect nationally, too.

End Chris Long had 8½ sacks, tackle Michael Brockers had 5½, backup end William Hayes had five and middle linebacker James Laurinatis had 3½.

Michael Sam, the first openly gay player drafted in the NFL, could figure in the mix, too. Sam showed a nice outside rush move in drills against other fellow backups.

"He's fitting in really well," Long said. "Like any other rookie he's unpolished, but he's eager to learn."

So, if opponents double-team Quinn, problems are likely to crop up elsewhere.

"We've got a whole bunch of great guys that can put up numbers on any given day," Quinn said. "It's going to be hard just to focus on one guy, so if teams decide to focus on me you can name any guy on our defense, really."

Last season, Quinn had a trio of three-

sack games. One of the highlights was scrambling on all fours to get to Saints quarterback Drew Brees, stripping the quarterback, recovering the fumble and racing to the end zone for his first career touchdown.

"Robert Quinn is a super hero," fellow defensive end Chris Long said.

He's getting that treatment from the team's promotions department, which concocted a giveaway figure of Quinn bending at the hips and waving his arms during a sack dance named "The Bernie," which aims to mimic movements made by the cadaver in the film, "Weekend of Bernie's."

"It's definitely funny to put on my mantel — once I get one," Quinn said. "Hopefully this year I just keep it rolling so I don't disappoint them."

The Rams second training camp workout began in 99-degree heat, about a 20-degree hike from an unseasonably cool first day. Coach Jeff Fisher didn't mind it a bit and pointed out Week 2 is at Tampa Bay.

"We need some heat," Fisher said. "From an acclimation standpoint, it's ideal. We've become an air-conditioned society."

Players have one more day of practice without pads before putting them on for the first time for a special team session Monday morning. The full squad will have its first full-pad practice on Tuesday.

NFL



JOHN GREEN, BAY AREA NEWS GROUP/MCT
Carolina Panthers rookie running back Tyler Gaffney will undergo surgery next week after tearing the lateral meniscus in his left knee and will be put on the injured reserve list.

Briefs

Panthers' Gaffney out for season

The Associated Press

SPARTANBURG, S.C. — Carolina Panthers rookie running back Tyler Gaffney will have season-ending surgery after tearing the lateral meniscus in his left knee.

Gaffney was Carolina's sixth-round draft pick out of Stanford and was expected to provide some depth in the backfield.

Panthers coach Ron Rivera said Saturday night after practice that Gaffney will have surgery next week and will be placed on injured reserve.

Gaffney started 14 games last season for Stanford and led the team with 1,709 yards rushing on 330 carries.

Rivera said Gaffney injured his knee in Friday night's Fan Fest while attempting to make a cut. Gaffney left practice early, but didn't appear to be seriously hurt at the time. An MRI showed differently.

"It was on a running play," Rivera said. "He ran a sweep coming out to our offensive left (side). He made a really nice cut. It was a bump and a little bit of a turn on the knee and he said he felt it pop."

Around the league:

■ The New York Jets have activated starting right guard Willie Colon from the active/physically unable to perform list, and he is practicing for the first time at training camp. Colon had off-season arthroscopic knee surgery in late May.

■ Buffalo Bills tight end Tony Moeaki is out indefinitely with a hamstring injury. Bills coach Doug Marrone said he will miss a "significant" amount of time, but likely won't miss the rest of training camp. Moeaki suffered the injury at practice on Friday.

■ San Francisco 49ers general manager Trent Baalke said Saturday that he expects the NFL's decision on a possible suspension for linebacker Aldon Smith to be announced soon, perhaps even before the preseason begins Aug. 7.

Raiders have high hopes for Mack

By JOSH DUBOW
 The Associated Press

Khalil Mack is entering the NFL with much more fanfare than he began his college career.

The former two-star recruit who got his only scholarship offer from Buffalo coming out of high school, worked his way into a first-round pick this spring and is being compared to some of the best pass-rushing linebackers in the league before he even puts his pads on for the first time.

Oakland Raiders coach Dennis Allen likened Mack to Denver star Von Miller, who had 11½ sacks as a rookie when Allen was defensive coordinator for the Broncos in 2011.

Mack welcomes the high expectations and said his goal is to win the defensive rookie of the year award. But he knows he has a long way to go to reach that level.

"I'm starting at the bottom right now," Mack said. "I'm trying to work my way up. I know I got to get a lot better."

Mack was awfully good in college where he set an NCAA record with 16 forced fumbles and a modern-day record with 75 tackles for loss. He had 10½ sacks, three interceptions, five forced fumbles and three fumble recoveries as a senior to vault himself to the No. 5 pick in the draft.

The Raiders targeted him from the start of the draft process and were ecstatic about the versatility he can add to the defense after he lasted until their first-round pick in May.

"Well when he was there on the board and when we picked him, there was definitely some drawing going on, some scribbling going on," defensive coordinator Jason Tarver said. "What's nice about Khalil is he has size and athletic ability, so that he can do some things on the edges of your defense, both in the run game and in the pass game, with his power, his length and his ability to bend and move."

Mack has quickly impressed his veteran teammates, who marvel at his speed to get around the edge and strength to overpower blockers. But up until now, they have only seen Mack in shorts.

The Raiders get to put on the pads for the first time this season on Sunday, a day Mack has

been waiting for ever since he was drafted.

"I think he's going to be one of the rookies who makes some big plays and helps the team win this year," defensive end LaMarr Woodley said. "I can only imagine what that guy can do when he puts shoulder pads on."

Mack is part of an overhaul on a Raiders defense that allowed the second-most points per game (28.3) in franchise history in 2013. That was part of a second straight four-win season that extended Oakland's playoff drought to 11 years. Mack could be the game-changing player

'I can only imagine what that guy can do when he puts shoulder pads on.'

LaMarr Woodley

Oakland Raiders defensive end about Khalil Mack

that the Raiders have lacked in recent years — a versatile pass-rusher who can get after the quarterback from almost anywhere on the field.

"We'll see how much he can handle," Allen said. "The more he can handle, the more we're able to do. He's an extremely talented player. You have to keep in mind he's still a young player. Even though he's very talented, there's still going to be a little bit of a learning curve."

Mack is also quite inquisitive, often asking veterans such as Justin Tuck for pointers on how to be a better pass rusher. He said Tuck has taught him how to better use his hands as a pass rusher and Woodley has tutored him on how to be more physical when matching up against tight ends.

But Tuck said he doesn't want to confuse the rookie with too much information too soon. "There will be a time when he'll be ready to take it up a notch,"

Tuck said. "You don't want to overload him with too much stuff. There are a lot of people in his ear right now, coaches and stuff like that. So right now, just work it through, slow process, it's a long season."



The Oakland Raiders made outside linebacker Khalil Mack the No. 5 pick in the NFL draft after setting an NCAA record with 16 forced fumbles and a modern-day record with 75 tackles for a loss to go along with 10½ sacks at the University of Buffalo.

AP

SPORTS



Rays of light

Resurgent Tampa Bay extends winning streak to nine | **Page 29**

NFL



Rams defensive end Robert Quinn celebrates a sack last season, right, and, below, rushes quarterback Sam Bradford during training camp on Saturday in St. Louis.

Hungry Ram

St. Louis DE Quinn is out for your QB

By R.B. FALLSTROM
The Associated Press

Robert Quinn set a St. Louis Rams record and led the NFC with 19 sacks last season. The challenge this season is to do even better, without changing a thing.

"I stuck to my same routine. If it's not broken, don't fix it, right?" Quinn said. "Of course, I want to push myself harder to be a better player."

The defensive end was second overall in the NFL, a half-sack behind the Colts' Robert Mathis, and also was second in the league with seven forced fumbles. He has a number in mind for 2014, but is keeping it private.

"I can't do that," Quinn told reporters, "because you're going to put too much pressure on me."

Of course, he can't deny thinking about the NFL record of 22½ sacks

“Robert Quinn is a super hero.”

Chris Long

St. Louis Rams defensive end



AP Photo

by the Giants' Michael Strahan in 2001.

"Can I plead the fifth?" Quinn said. "I'm sure any D-lineman or anybody going for sacks wants to take down that record, but you have to go one sack at a time."

"I've got a lot of work to do to better myself, and I think as a defense we've got a lot of work to do."

The Rams view the 6-foot-4, 265-pound Quinn as still ascending. Though he's entering his fourth season, he's only 24 after leaving North Carolina early.

Plus, this season he'll have Gregg Williams pushing for more, both on the pass rush and defending the run. Williams is a proven commodity as a defensive coordinator and Quinn has been impressed with the defensive coordinator's wealth of knowledge on both sides of the ball and knack for exploiting the opponent's weakness and protecting his own team's deficiencies.

SEE QUINN ON PAGE 30

Inside: ■ Raiders have high hopes for Mack, Page 31 ■ Falcons focus on protection, Page 30



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